

FBIS**DAILY REPORT**
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ARAB STEADFASTNESS SUMMIT IN ALGIERS OPENS

LD021610Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] A few moments ago the summit conference of the Arab front for confrontation and steadfastness was opened under the chairmanship of President Houari Boumediene.

Boumediene Opening Speech

LD021826Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Speech by Algerian President Houari Boumediene at inaugural session of the second conference of the steadfast and confrontation summit in Algiers on 2 February--recorded]

[Text] Brothers: On behalf of all of you we open this second conference of the steadfast and confrontation front. On this occasion I am happy to welcome all brother members of the delegations to Algeria on behalf of the Council of Revolution and the Algerian Government and people. This second meeting of its kind after the serious political developments in the Arab arena constitutes categorical proof that this nation possesses great capabilities which could, if we knew how best to utilize them, challenge any deviation which has occurred or will occur in the future, because we believe that the future does not belong to individuals or governments. Survival is for peoples and this nation, the Arab nation.

In the past we witnessed problems and setbacks and political defeats with which we had been afflicted since the age of deterioration and through the era of colonialism. But thanks to the continued struggle and sacrifices of its sons, be it in the east or the west or in any other part of the wide homeland, the Arab nation succeeded in rising up from its fall and continuing the march.

At this meeting and on your behalf we declare that this gathering is not directed against the Egyptian people or against fraternal Egypt, for which we hold the best feelings, all respect and appreciation. But at the same time, we declare most clearly and most frankly and emphasize what we declared at the Tripoli conference: that the line pursued by the Egyptian Government, by which I mean the political line, is completely contrary to the resolutions of previous conferences, from the Khartoum conference to the Rabat conference, resolutions which testify to the truth of what I say. This line is a departure from the Arab unanimity.

Therefore, we observe today that one side is negotiating directly with the Zionist enemy, while the two main sides and those most deeply affected, namely, the Palestinian people, reject this line. By the other two sides I mean the Palestinian people and the Syrian people. They reject this line.

I am authorized by the members of the front to say that the Palestinian people have not authorized President as-Sadat to act as their lawyer. The Palestinian people and their representatives are present here within this front. Syria is also there. It is a founding member of this front. We support, fully and unreservedly, the stand which opposes the policy being followed by Cairo government. This is the stand which is adopted by the representatives of the Palestinian people and the leadership of the Syrian people. Therefore, brothers, our stand is a principled stand, a firm stand, a permanent stand, which works to prevent the success of this imperialist plan whose threads have begun to become visible and obvious.

While fighting the idea of domination and control over the Arab region and the African Continent, we at the same time defend the preservation of the balance of power in the Arab world and the African Continent, because without a balance of power we will lose even our independence. Therefore, while we have called for and call for the need to maintain the balance within the framework of international realities in this region, we are in fact defending our independence, our existence and our countries' wealth and the future of our peoples.

Let this be clear to all. We will resist, with all the capabilities we have and all the force we possess, every imperialist policy which endeavors and works toward dominating and controlling us and toward making this region go back toward the Dark Ages and the past. What interests some states is the wealth of our countries. We should not forget this fact for a moment. Ultimately the future belongs to the peoples and to this nation. We have great and total confidence that our Arab nation will triumph in its present and future battles. Peace be with you, and once again you are most welcome, members of the delegations, in this country.

Leaders in Closed Session

LD022205Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] The leaders of the steadfast and confrontation front are now holding a closed session to discuss the results of the ministerial session following the opening of the summit conference by President Houari Boumediene this afternoon in his capacity as chairman of the conference. The summit consists of Syria, the Jamahiriyah, the PDRY, the PLO and Algeria, whose delegation is led by President Boumediene and includes Abdelaziz Bouterfika, member of the Council of the Revolution and foreign minister; Mohamed Benahmed Abdelghani, member of the Council of the Revolution and minister of the interior; Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim, minister counselor to the president; Boualem Benhamouda, minister of justice; Redha Malek, minister of information and culture; (Abd al-Qadir bin Qasi), director of the Foreign Ministry Arab Affairs Section; and Mohamed Yazid, Algerian ambassador to Lebanon.

The Syrian delegation is headed by President Hafiz al-Asad; the Libyan Jamahiriyah delegation is led by Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress; the PDRY delegation is led by 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the National Front; and the Palestinian delegation is led by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and includes Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and Ahmad Jibril, of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Report on First Session

LD022344Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] The second summit conference of the front of steadfastness and confrontation has begun its meetings at the Al-Awrafi Hotel in Algiers. The meetings were opened by Algerian President Houari Boumediene, president of the Council of the Revolution. The meetings of the conference continued until late on Thursday night.

The first closed session of the conference was adjourned, and Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and foreign minister, said that the heads of states studied the first point on the agenda, which deals with the Arab and international situation since the Tripoli summit conference and in light of the latest developments in the Middle East situation. The conference will resume its work on Friday morning.

The conference heard a report from President Houari Boumediene about his tour of the Middle East and a number of socialist countries. The conference then heard reports by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, the PLO chairman, the secretary general of the PDRY Unified Political Organization and finally by Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, chief Libyan delegate.

In light of these reports, Brother Abdelaziz Bouteflika declared that the analysis published following the Tripoli summit was further confirmed and that the positions of the various front member countries were consolidated.

Concerning President as-Sadat's initiative, the brother foreign minister said: I wish to point out here that, while the Egyptian president has the right to speak on behalf of Egypt, his attitudes have no legal basis. He elaborated by saying that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and the PLO chairman, who are now at the conference, took the opportunity of their presence in Algeria to affirm that they have not given any instructions to President as-Sadat to talk on their behalf.

In conclusion, brother Abdelaziz Bouteflika declared that the conference will resume its work on Friday morning.

Bouteflika Remarks

LD31106 [Editorial Report LD] Algiers Domestic Service in French at 0630 GMT on 3 February carried a report similar to the above. It added the following after the penultimate paragraph:

"Bouteflika said he is addressing these remarks primarily to the international community and especially to those who (?support the actions of) President as-Sadat. The minister of foreign affairs added later that it must be increasingly clear that the aim is to bring the Arab world, and probably other areas of the Third World, under imperialist influence. Otherwise, Bouteflika went on, how can one explain that the USSR has been kept apart from the search for a solution to the Middle East issue. We are dealing here with extremely delicate balances (?in our) national independence and the future of our peoples, (? he said)."

Al-Qadhdhafi Arrives at Summit

LDO31228Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 03 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] The leaders together with their accompanying delegations began their second session following the arrival of President Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress, at the conference hall in Al-Awrasl Hotel at about 1215 today. The conference of the steadfastness and confrontation front is to continue to study the remaining points on its agenda. The conferees last night completed their debate on the first two points regarding the Arab and international situation in light of the recent political developments resulting from the widening of the imperialist plot against the rights of the Arab nation and the consequences of this plot on the future of the Arab peoples, both east and west, and on peace in the world.

Palestinian Delegation Composition

JN021650Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 2 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpt] The second summit conference of the heads of the steadfastness and confrontation front is beginning its meetings in Algiers. It should be recalled that brother Abu 'Ammar, the PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in the Algerian capital last night to participate in the conference. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar is accompanied by Palestine National Council Chairman Khalid al-Fahum and the following secretaries general of the Palestinian resistance movement groups: George Habash, Nayif Hawatimah, 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, Samir Ghawshah, Ahmad Jibril, Zuhayr Muhsin and Tal'at Ya'kub.

Abu Mayzar Press Conference

LDO21528Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Press conference given by Abu Mayzar, spokesman of the Algiers conference of steadfastness and confrontation, following the conference's ministerial council meeting on the morning of 2 February--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] With regard to the agenda the foreign minister's meeting discussed and submitted to the leaders of the steadfastness front, does it (?contain) steps (?connected) with the situation in Lebanon?

[Answer] The situation in Lebanon is not on the agenda of the summit conference. The situation in the Middle East as a whole, the situation in the Arab homeland in all its aspects will be discussed in light of the challenges and dangers which are facing the Arab nation in all its countries as a result of the plots, plans and U.S. imperialist and Zionist projects.

[Question] It has been said that the role being played by Iran in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa was raised so that it may be submitted to the leaders today. (?Can you say something) about this?

[Answer] As I have said, the situation in the region in general is on the agenda. With regard to the recent statements made by the shah of Iran, the PLO and many Arab and Moslem officials have outlined their attitude toward these statements by expressing their dissatisfaction with them. We believe that any deviation by any Arab or Moslem official from the resolutions of the Arab and Islamic summits is a violation of these resolutions. Any such deviation can receive only denunciation from us. As for the statement by the shah on Jerusalem, we previously outlined our attitude toward that. We, together with the Arab nation and the world of Islam and world public opinion, insist on the Arabism of Jerusalem and the necessity for Palestinian Arab sovereignty over every part of the occupied Palestinian territories.

[Question] Will Dr George Habash attend the conference?

[Answer] Dr George Habash is a member of the PLO delegation under the leadership of brother Yasir 'Arafat.

[Question] Is he expected to arrive today?

[Answer] (?Yes).

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] The entire Arab situation, as I have said, was discussed. No doubt the (?summit) conference denounces and condemns any foreign intervention in the affairs of the Arab homeland. It denounces any attempt or effort to encourage such foreign military interference in the affairs of the Arab countries no matter what side this interference comes from.

[Question] Will the door be kept open for Iraq to join the front in future?

[Answer] We have said that the front, from its foundation and until now, keeps the door open for every Arab country which feels a responsibility to participate in foiling the U.S. settlement and President as-Sadat's policy, which was manifested during As-Sadat's visit to occupied Palestine. The nationalist front's aims include continuing work for explaining the dangers of U.S.-Israeli policy in the Arab region and exposing the plans and projects aimed at the liquidation of the Palestinian question and the Palestinian people's rights.

[Question] We all know that King Hassan II of Morocco was one of the planners of As-Sadat's visit. Will the conference condemn Hassan II [words indistinct]?

[Answer] This will be left entirely to the leaders. When the summit conference begins today it will define its attitude, which I will convey to you when I make my report to you.

Further Details

[LD022242Y Editorial Report LD] Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 2 February carries a recorded excerpt of the above press conference given by Abu Mayzar, which adds the following:

[Abu Mayzar] The main and central issue for which the national front was established is the Palestinian question. This is because the question of Palestine (?is the main issue). The PLO is not only a political organization but also a cause and rights of people. Therefore, the Palestinian revolution, under PLO leadership, its activities and the consolidation of its activities by every means, was one of the topics the preparatory conference discussed.

Palestinian-Syrian relations are good. We, Syria and the member countries of the front belong to one front and are fighting in the same trench. The conference discussed the present situation in the Arab region from all its aspects at the Arab and international levels.

[Question] What are the steps that the conference can take to increase the isolation of President as-Sadat [words indistinct]?

[Answer] This conference is being held primarily to defend the Arab rights and the question of Palestine and the Palestinian people's rights, which U.S. imperialism and world Zionism are trying to liquidate. Therefore, our conference is a conference for the defense of the rights and issues of the Arab nation. We can say that this conference constitutes a step forward because events have proved the correctness of the analysis and conclusion which the Tripoli conference arrived at with regard to President as-Sadat's visit to occupied Palestine and the U.S. projects and plans which are being drawn up against the Arab region.

Abu Mayzar Assails U.S. Policy

LD021648Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] Abu Mayzar, spokesman of the Algiers conference of steadfastness and confrontation, spoke to journalists following the conclusion of this morning's meeting of the ministerial council.

About his views regarding President as-Sadat's visit to Washington and the U.S. commitment in the Middle East, Abu Mayzar said: You all know that recently President Carter met with President as-Sadat in Aswan. As-Sadat's visit to Washington, therefore, is proof of the impasse As-Sadat finds himself in. U.S. policy in the Middle East is in favor of occupation and Israeli aggression and the liquidation of the national rights of the Palestinian people, and this is in violation of the principles of the UN Charter and of human rights, about which President Carter speaks a great deal, while the fact remains that he ignores them. All attempts to liquidate the Palestinian people's national rights have failed.

Boumediene Meets With Jallud

LD022142Y Tripoli JANA in English 1842 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Algiers, February 2, JANA--Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud held a meeting here this afternoon with President Boumediene of Algeria. The meeting was also attended by Dr 'Ali at-Turayki, the Jamahiriya foreign secretary, and Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the foreign minister of Algeria.

ALGIERS CLAIMS SAUDIS INVITED TO IRAQI SUMMIT

LD291248Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Member of the Revolutionary Council and Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika has received a message from Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal saying that Saudi Arabia has received an invitation from Iraq to participate in an Arab summit conference to be held in Baghdad to discuss the Middle East problem on the basis of liberation and rejection of the capitulatory solutions. The message adds that Saudi Arabia has agreed to attend provided that the topics to be discussed do not depart from the framework of the resolutions of the Algiers and Rabat summit conferences, which Saudi Arabia strongly upholds.

An Algerian source has pointed out that the summit conference to be held in Algeria had been decided upon at the request of members of the front formed in Tripoli by Syria and the PLO. The same source also pointed out that the 31 January-1 February meeting will be confined to foreign ministers only, and that the summit conference will be held on 2-3 February.

It must be stated here that a front composed of Syria and the PLO was formed at Tripoli and that this front was also joined by the Libyan Jamahiriya, the FDRY and Algeria.

The source added that except for Iraq, Algeria did not invite any other Arab countries which had not signed the Tripoli statement, because it was not content with the extent to which the participants in the Tripoli conference had gone. It is not expected to enlarge the conference in the near future, unless the conference decides otherwise.

Last night an official spokesman of the Iraqi Government declared that Iraq will not participate in the second steadfastness summit conference, which is to be held in Algeria.

It should be recalled that the envoy of President Houari Boumediene, Boualem Benhamouda, the minister of public works, left Baghdad yesterday after performing the mission entrusted to him by President Boumediene. INA reported that on leaving Baghdad, Benhamouda said that he conveyed to Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr President Boumediene's views on the current situation in the Arab area. He pointed out that the Iraqi president asked him to convey a written message to President Boumediene.

From Baghdad, the Algerian envoy went to Damascus, where he had talks with Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. It is reported that Benhamouda left Damascus this morning.

PLO OFFICIAL ASKS ARAB STATES TO REVIEW U.S. TIES

JN021847Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Feb 78 JN

[Text] The PLO has officially asked the Arab countries to review their relations with the United States. The request was submitted to the Arab league today by Sa'id Kamal, deputy chairman of the PLO Political Department. He asked that this request be placed on the agenda of the coming ministerial council of the Arab countries, scheduled to meet in March.

In a statement to journalists, Sa'id Kamal said that the United States will pay a heavy price for its continued hostility to the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He further said: We will not stop struggling with all means until an independent national state is established on the soil of Palestine. He stressed at the end of the request that the issue of war and peace in the Middle East depends mainly on honoring the national rights of the Palestinian people.

MENA Report on Statement

NC021657Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1607 GMT 2 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 February--Sa'id Kamal, deputy chief of the PLO Political Department, has called on the United States to reassess its stand on the Palestine liberation movement based on reality and facts. He said that evading reality and facts means evading international responsibility, which is a policy that can produce adverse results and is doomed to failure.

At a press conference held today in Cairo, Sa'id Kamal added: While no one in our world can ignore the fact that the United States is one of the two superpowers which has a big responsibility in the question of war or peace, no one in our world--even if it is a big power--can ignore the fact that the question of war and peace in the Middle East rests totally on respecting the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people. Sa'id Kamal explained that while the United States is a big power, we are a national liberation movement in the heart of one of the most sensitive areas in our world, as far as strategic location and oil is concerned. He added that the United States was also a big power when a national liberation movement was expressing the national rights of the Vietnamese people.

He stated that the Palestinian revolution has the will to struggle until it achieves its legitimate goals and that it has unlimited strugglers among the Palestinian and all the Arab people. Sa'id Kamal added: The United States has material interests at stake and political relations which can collapse.

VOP DENIES PALESTINIAN ROLE IN ORANGE POISONING

JN021546Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 2 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Certain foreign news agencies have reported that the Federal Republic of Germany has suspended its import of oranges from occupied Palestine following the discovery in the Netherlands of several oranges poisoned with mercury. The news agencies add that a Palestinian organization named the Arab Revolutionary Army-Palestinian Command has claimed responsibility for this poisoning. On this subject, a responsible spokesman in the Palestinian resistance has stated the following:

1. It is firmly established that there is no Palestinian organization inside or outside the occupied territories under the name of the Arab Revolutionary Army-Palestinian Command.
2. Such actions do not conform with the goals of the PLO or with its means of armed and political struggle.
3. The statement issued by the so-called Arab Revolutionary Army-Palestinian Command is just a vicious attempt to harm the Palestinian people and the PLO, which have succeeded through the many years of their persistent struggle in gaining the confidence and support of international public opinion, including a large segment of European public opinion.

Such propaganda operations are aimed at antagonizing this public opinion toward the struggle of the Palestinian people.

4. We have prior information about the activities of a number of hostile intelligence services working to harm the PLO and to denigrate the brilliant image of the Palestinian people's struggle, through the use of dirty methods. We do not exclude, therefore, that this operation falls within that (?course).

'ARAFAT CHAIRS PALESTINIAN, LEBANESE MEETING

JN011615 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 1 Feb 78 JN

[Text] The Palestinian leadership and the central command council of the Lebanese nationalist movement held a joint meeting last night under brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolutionary forces. Our radio correspondent has learned that the meeting discussed all aspects of the situation in southern Lebanon. Brother Abu 'Ammar presented a complete analysis of the recent developments in the Arab region and their repercussions in Lebanon, Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement. The joint meeting was informed of the measures taken by the revolution and the masses in southern Lebanon.

The joint meeting discussed the misconduct of certain individuals and factions which are not part of the Palestinian revolution or the Lebanese nationalist movement. The meeting was acquainted with the immediate decisions adopted to close down the offices of these factions inside the old town quarter of Sidon. The brother members of the Lebanese nationalist movement discussed the situation in Lebanon in general, and the south in particular, and stressed the need for the unification of all forces under the joint command of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement.

All speakers, including the secretaries general of the fedayeen organizations and the leaders of the Lebanese nationalist movement, were unanimous on the need to reach an advanced formula for joint action in southern Lebanon in order to protect the revolution and the nationalist movement from the elements which infiltrated their ranks and to maintain the organic link with the steadfast masses in southern Lebanon.

Our radio correspondent has learned that brother Abu 'Ammar discussed with the secretaries general of the fedayeen organizations and the leaders of the Lebanese nationalist movement a unified program to be submitted to the summit conference of steadfastness and confrontation, a program which will be capable of effectively opposing the capitulatory line. It was agreed that the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Palestinian leadership will adopt a joint stand at the Algiers conference so as to bolster the pan-Arab stand and to insure the adoption of a program which will place before all the Arab nationalist forces their responsibility to effectively oppose the capitulatory line.

At 1700 yesterday brother Abu 'Ammar met with His Eminence Imam Musa as-Sadr, the chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Council. The discussion dealt with developments in the current situation on the Palestinian and Arab levels.

PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP, LEBANESE REACH AGREEMENT

NC031200Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1120 GMT 3 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 3 February--The Lebanese newspaper AN-NAHAR today publishes details of the agreement reached last week between the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Palestinian leadership to put an end to the excesses perpetrated in southern Lebanon. The agreement includes the following points:

1. Removal of armed offices in towns in the south and a ban on offices of this sort except in areas considered to be points of actual confrontation with the enemy.
2. Evacuation of all public utilities and seaports and handing over of their administration to the authorities.
3. Prevention of encroachments and an attempt to put down excesses and immediate arrest of the perpetrators.
4. Formation of security committees to apprehend anarchist elements and put down excesses and encroachments perpetrated by undisciplined elements and others.
5. Formation of a committee to supervise implementation of the agreement according to a timetable.
6. Handing over the positions which will be vacated by the Palestinians and which are not needed for the military confrontation with Israel to elements of the nationalist movement.
7. Twenty-four hours will be given for the withdrawal of armed Palestinian elements from the heart of Sidon and 1 week for their withdrawal from Tyre, An-Nabatiyah and other towns and positions from which it was agreed that they would withdraw.

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM ON DISAPPROVAL OF AS-SADAT, U.S. ROLE

LDO30250Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 1 Feb 78 pp 1, 23 LD

[Editorial: "Kuwait's National Stands"]

[Excerpts] In the past 24 hours Kuwait, under exalted ruler Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, adopted two landmark stands:

First, it declared following yesterday's talks with Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak that it does not approve of the Egyptian political line regarding the settlement and that "it believes that healing the Arab rift has now become more necessary than at any time before." Kuwait also stated awareness of "the existence of differences of views between the two sides" regarding the Egyptian president's initiative. When Kuwait expresses such reservations on the Egyptian adventure at this time, it is affirming that the Arab conscience is not satisfied with this adventure and rejects it. This, despite Cairo's allegation that "the leaders of the countries which Husni Mubarak visited assured him of their countries' full support for President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative." In fact, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the Arab oil countries have more than once affirmed that they adhere to the Rabat summit resolutions which provide for collective action, shun unilateral steps, and recognize the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

The second significant stand appeared in the statement of the Kuwaiti oil minister yesterday that the OPEC countries lose 20 percent of the value of their oil because of the drop in the dollar, that the United States must be frankly told to maintain the rate and strength of the dollar, and that "otherwise we shall look for another currency and end dealing with the dollar." This stand, which is an extension of or another aspect of the same national position, places on record the purity and freedom of the Kuwaiti will as well as its unequivocal commitment to the national interest.

Furthermore, in both its aspects--whether the objection to the Egyptian adventure or the hint at getting rid of the dollar yoke--this situation underlines the magnitude of the damage that the Arabs are suffering, whether on the level of the conflict with Israel or as a result of U.S. policy. We do not wish to indulge in figures here, but we can imagine how heavy the losses are that we suffer because of the fall in the dollar. If the oil minister said that the loss approaches 20 percent, then we can imagine that the losses of the Arab oil countries reach billions annually.

Therefore, why should we be burdened with a currency that has no value? Indeed, why should we not immediately halt this new American conspiracy which, through dollar control, aims at subjecting the oil and other countries to unprecedented extortion and bleeding? In fact we do not know of one single reason that should make us remain silent over this situation and suffer such grave losses for the sake of the United States when it has not for a single moment stopped its unlimited support for Israel. Indeed, Israel would not have been able to adopt such arrogant stands had it not known that the United States backed it solidly. Of course, there is nothing new in this and the U.S. problem is known from A to Z.

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ARABIAN PENINSULA

Perhaps we must stress on this occasion that a firm oil stand is needed at this stage more than at any time before. The West is affected only by what puts it in difficulty. Arab oil is the number one weapon that would make the West feel such difficulty and consequently feel the injustice that is being done to the Arabs. It remains for the rest of the Arabs to hear the voice of Kuwait and join hands in a great and dignified stand.

QATAR

SHAYKH KHALIFAH AL THANI ON OIL PRICES, PEACE TALKS

NC021145Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 2 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 2 February--Qatari Finance and Petroleum Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani has asserted that petroleum is an economic commodity and not a political commodity and that the State of Qatar believes that Arab unity can lead to the achievement of Arab interests and aims.

This came in a statement which the minister made to the Kuwaiti magazine SAWT AL-KHALIJ today. The minister had been asked whether Qatar, owing to the U.S. failure to exert pressure on Israel, intends to change its stand on the question of freezing the price of petroleum on the basis that the freezing decision was adopted to achieve a political aim. Regarding the Arab issue, Israel's refusal to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and the faltering Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, the minister said that His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of the State of Qatar, had summoned the ambassadors of the United States, Britain, France and the FRG and had given them letters to pass to their governments expressing Qatar's views on the current situation.

Asked about the extent of coordination among the OPEC member states, his excellency said the coordination is continuing because these states have common aims and interests. This is confirmed by the OPEC achievements, the most important of which are the dry-dock in Bahrain, the Petroleum Investments Company and the Petroleum Services Company. The minister added that the next OPEC conference will be held in mid-June and that the most important item on the agenda is the price of petroleum, which must be fully discussed in connection with fluctuations in the value of the dollar.

SAUDI ARABIA

YAR FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAJ ARRIVES FOR DISCUSSIONS

NC031009Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Jidda, 3 February--YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj arrived in Jidda this morning. He was met at the airport by Commander of the Western District Lt Gen Mansur ash-Shu'aybi; Chief of Protocol at the Foreign Ministry Salim Sunbul; and YAR Ambassador to the kingdom Hamud al-Jayfi.

Al-Asnaj said on arrival that he is carrying messages from YAR Command Council Chairman Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi to his brother His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and to His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister. He said he will discuss with Saudi officials the current developments in the Arab area and the intense efforts being made by the Arabian Peninsula and gulf states to put Arab relations on the correct course. He added that he will also discuss the question of setting a date for the meeting of the joint Saudi-YAR Coordination Council in Riyadh.

RIYADH: ISRAEL IGNORES U.S. PROTESTS OVER SETTLEMENTS

LD021416Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The Egyptian-Israeli military talks in Isma'ilia last night were postponed without any indication as to whether the two sides achieved any progress on the subjects on the committee's agenda, at the top of which were the questions of the Israeli settlements and military airfields in the Sinai Peninsula.

Brothers: Israel agreed to take part in the talks of the Military Committee and before that the Political Committee in occupied Jerusalem, fully realizing the talks were destined to fail. All the Israeli leaders from Menahem Begin, the enemy prime minister, down to the most minor minister in his cabinet have no intention of completely withdrawing from the occupied Arab territories and granting the Palestinian people their right to self-determination. These two demands are fundamental for any peaceful settlement in the Middle East, as world public opinion knows.

However, it has become indisputably clear to one and all that from his participation in these talks the enemy is trying to gain time and to deceive public opinion that the Israelis are serious in their search for peace. Otherwise, what is meant by his participation in talks, the aim of which is first and foremost Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied by force of arms, while in the meantime the enemy strives to build further settlements in these territories? However, this is not unexpected from an entity headed by Menahem Begin, hero of the Dayir Yasin slaughter. Begin like other Zionists has no consideration for [word indistinct] nor for principles. All that concerns him is Israel's interest and the rest of the world can go to hell. [passage indistinct] The Israelis, as Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has stressed, are pressing on in building more settlements, and any cabinet coming into power in occupied Palestine will continue to build settlements in the occupied Arab territories. American President Carter was recently informed that the enemy is planning to build a new settlement in the West Bank and he expressed his annoyance on hearing this report. [Word indistinct] once again confirmed his country's opposition to the establishment of settlements in the Arab territories and ordered his ambassador in Israel to convey a message to Menahem Begin asking him to confirm once again the pledge he gave to the President last summer. This pledge, as made clear by the American President, provided that Begin's cabinet would not allow the establishment of any new settlements, and any increase in the number of Jewish immigrants to the Arab territories would take place by enlarging the old settlements.

In the meantime the enemy's television service has revealed a plan apparently drawn up to make a point of disregarding President Carter's protests and the secretary of state's warnings of the consequences of going on with building settlements. This plan confirms that shortly three new settlements will be built in [name indistinct] in the occupied West Bank and that two of them will become towns.

[Words indistinct] now what follows the suspension of [words indistinct] talks? Observers are saying that the results of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's talks with American President Carter will answer this [words indistinct] will lead the countries of the region to the abyss, as Vance stated.

YEMEN--PDRY

SAHARAN DEMOCRATIC ARAB REPUBLIC RECOGNIZED

LD021600Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 02 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] The following joint communique was issued in Aden and (Soljah) today:

Brother Muhammad al-Amin, premier of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] paid an official visit to the PDRY from 30 January to 1 February. During his visit he met with brothers Salim Rubayyi 'Ali, assistant secretary general of the Central Committee and chairman of the Presidential Council; and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Politburo and prime minister. They exchanged views on the current situation in the Arab region and the successive conspiracies being hatched by imperialism, Zionism and reaction against progressive regimes and against international and Arab national liberation movements.

The SDAR delegation briefed the Yemeni side on developments in the Arab west and the just struggle waged by the Saharan people since the Spanish occupation up to the time of foreign intervention by imperialism and reaction, which seeks to prevent the people of the Sahara from achieving their freedom and self-determination, which has been approved by the United Nations, the OAU, the group of nonaligned nations and various international organizations. On the basis of its firm belief in the right of peoples to self-determination, the PDRY announces its recognition of the SDAR.

Issued Thursday, 2 February, 1978 in Aden and (Soljah).

YEMEN--YAR

PRIME MINISTER AL-GHANI RECEIVES U.S. AMBASSADOR

JN021838Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Brother Command Council member and Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ghani today received his excellency the U.S. ambassador in San'a'. The discussions during the meeting dealt with relations between the two friendly countries.

BRIEFS

ARAB YOUTH CONFERENCE--As'ad al-As'ad, assistant secretary general of the Arab League, arrived in San'a' this afternoon to attend the meetings of the Council of Arab Youth Ministers which will begin in San'a' on Saturday. The Saudi Arabian delegation to the conference arrived this morning headed by 'Abd al-Wahab 'Abd al-Wasi, minister of pilgrimage affairs and AWQAF and member of the Higher Youth Council in Saudi Arabia. The Libyan delegation to the conference arrived in San'a' this morning headed by the adviser of the Youth Secretariat. The delegations were received by the minister of labor, social affairs and youth. [San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jan 78 JN] Sudanese Minister of State for Sports and Youth 'Ali Shummu arrived in San'a' this morning at the head of a delegation to attend the first meeting of the Arab ministers of sports and youth. The Iraqi delegation, under Minister of Youth Karim Mahmud, also arrived in San'a' today for the same purpose. [San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jan 78 JN]

MENA REVIEWS 3 FEB CAIRO PRESS ON AS-SADAT TOUR

LDO30234Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2340 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Cairo, 2 February--News of President Anwar as-Sadat's visit to the United States and six European countries which he began today by visiting the Maghreb are reported in banner headlines in all Cairo papers in tomorrow's issues.

AL-AHRAM says that for many reasons President as-Sadat's tour this time is of particular importance, because in many aspects it is different from previous similar visits to the same capitals that have played and still play an influential role in the Middle East crisis. This tour, the paper says, follows a stage in which the historical peace initiative revealed aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict that were befogged by Israeli allegations. For a long time people believed the allegation that Israel seeks peace while the Arabs reject it and that Israel's aggressive behavior is justified in view of the Arab world's rejection of and hatred for it.

But, the paper stresses, President as-Sadat's historical initiative has exposed these allegations. Egypt, it adds, has shown great patience since it got involved in a dialog with the Israeli leaders and negotiators. It did so only to find itself again facing the same old Israeli logic, which is based on obsolete concepts that attempt to combine territorial security, peace and occupation. It has therefore become necessary for the world to bear its responsibility lest everything collapse. Concluding, the paper says that President as-Sadat's current visit will dot the "I's" and cross the "T's", and that the Arab people are following it with hope and anticipation for a lasting and just peace.

Under the title "The Peace Battle in the International Arena," AL-JUMHURIYAH says: With the beginning of President as-Sadat's important trip, Israeli, international and Arab circles have shown different reactions: Some have responded to the desired objectives of this trip, while others have tried to obstruct its results or counter its impact. There is no doubt, the paper stresses, that the visit to the United States is the most important stop on the tour.

Referring to Israeli reaction to President as-Sadat's visit to the United States, the paper says this has been characterized by fear, which was evident in the Israeli leadership's decision to send Foreign Minister Dayan to the United States on the same day President as-Sadat departs. One does not need great intelligence to understand the aim of such a measure by the Israeli leadership. Its aim is to remove the positive effects that As-Sadat's negotiations and talks will have on American public opinion. Concluding, the paper points to the meeting of the rejectionist states in Algiers and says that is is aligned with efforts to hinder the initiative to liberate the land and is therefore aligned with the Israeli efforts.

Under the title "A More Frank American Attitude," AL-AKHBAR says that President as-Sadat did not take his peace initiative and penetrate the barriers of fear and mistrust with unique courage for the sake of Egypt alone, but rather for the sake of the peoples of the whole area and the world, foremost of which are the Israeli people, to whom peace is extremely vital and important. The paper warns that the failure of peace efforts will have serious effects on Israel first of all and that these effects will inevitably affect the U.S. interests in the area, especially oil interests. Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses the need for the United States to adopt a more decisive, specific and firm attitude in the face of Israeli prevarications, adding that the cause of peace in the Middle East is in great need of such frankness.

AL-AHRAM ON IMPORTANCE OF AS-SADAT-CARTER MEETING

LD022235Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Ihsan Bakr article: "What Will Carter Say?"]

[Excerpts] We would not be exaggerating to say that the U.S. role in solving the Middle East crisis and establishing a just peace in the area has never been needed as much as it is now. In fact the fate and future of the U.S. interests in the area for many years will be determined by the expected U.S. role in the crisis.

It is because of this that President as-Sadat's trip to Washington is of special significance at this particular time.

Observers following the successive U.S. statements and official positions, announced first by Mr Carter himself, then Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, and ending with the White House and State Department spokesmen, have noted different attitudes within a single year. Some of these favor the Arab stand and stress the need to comply with the UN resolutions, whereas others follow the traditional U.S. line supporting Israel's stand and showing total disregard for U.S. interests in the Arab area, interests which are many and extremely vital.

The problem of the Palestinian people's rights is the real touchstone of the U.S. intentions toward the Arab area. President Carter himself said that "Israel must recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinians if it wishes the Arabs to recognize secure and recognized borders for it."

It was evident at the talks of the Political Committee in Jerusalem that Israel bases all its proposals and solutions on the grounds that all of Palestine is under Israeli sovereignty and that the Palestinians living in Palestine are Israeli citizens who would enjoy an autonomous rule similar to that granted to the black Africans by the League of Nations 50 years ago.

Begin declared that the Palestinian people could be granted autonomous rule, which is unprecedented in history. Begin has overlooked the fact that in the League of Nations mandate in 1922 the whole world recognized that they had attained a degree of political and cultural maturity that give them the right to independence but that a limited period of time should lapse before they acquired full independence.

There is no doubt that as he is preparing for his coming talks with President as-Sadat President Carter has before him the whole file of the Palestine problem. The road to Palestine is the road to a just and final peace for the crisis. This is the position to which the Egyptian negotiator has been and still is committed as a matter of trust and honor and for the sake of security and stability in the area.

But so far the U.S. administration has not determined its position on this problem. It has deprived the Palestinians of their right to participate in the dialog and to submit their problem even after the world recognized them.

Today President Carter is called upon to take a brave and neutral stand toward the Palestine problem. If former President Truman recognized Israel within 24 hours after it declared its establishment and was shortly followed by the Soviet Union, President Carter today is called upon by the Arabs and the whole world to rectify this situation by responding to the Palestinians' demands and their right to establish an independent state in which the three religions will coexist.

YAR AMBASSADOR DELIVERS MESSAGE TO HAMMADI

JN021842Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Feb 78 JN

[Text] YAR Ambassador in Baghdad brother Ghalim 'Ali Jamil, today handed a written message from Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj to Iraqi Foreign Minister brother Sa'dun Hammadi. SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that the message deals with bilateral relations and the current conditions the Arab world is passing through.

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL, NATIONALIST FRONT MEET

JN011459Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1414 GMT 1 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 February--The general secretariat of the progressive national and nationalist front today held a meeting presided over by Na'im Haddad, member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and secretary general of the front.

The front discussed the current situation in the Arab area and the activities of the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary forces aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause and dealing a blow to the gains of the Arab national liberation movement.

The front also studied means to organize and consolidate struggle relations and to enlighten the masses on the dangers of the imperialist, Zionist, reactionary conspiracy. It also studied means to double efforts aimed at entrenching the front of Arab progressive forces, a necessity for the decisive confrontation of the fierce imperialist onslaught.

TRADE DELEGATION RETURNS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA, GREECE

JN011738Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 1 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 February--Trade Ministry Under Secretary Mahdi Muhsin 'Awdah returned to Baghdad this evening following visits to Czechoslovakia and Greece during which he headed an Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the joint Iraqi-Czechoslovak committee and the meetings of the joint Iraqi-Greek committee.

During the Iraqi delegation's visit to Czechoslovakia, the joint minutes of the meetings of the Iraqi-Czechoslovak joint trade committee and the trade exchange plan for 1978 between the two countries were signed. This plan provides for an increase in Iraqi exports to Czechoslovakia and the expansion and diversification of bilateral trade exchange.

During its visit to Greece, the Iraqi delegation signed the joint minutes of the meetings of the joint Iraqi-Greek committee, which include an increase in Iraqi exports to Greece and the adoption of measures which will guarantee the development of technical and economic cooperation between the two countries.

AL-BAKR RECEIVES THANK YOU CABLE FROM CASTRO

JN021112Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 2 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 February--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has received a thank you cable from Fidel Castro, the president of the Cuban Council of State and Ministers, in reply to the congratulations sent on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the Cuban revolution's victory.

The cable reads as follows: It pleases me to express to Your Excellency, in the name of the Cuban people and government, our profound thanks for the cable of congratulations you sent to us on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution. Please accept our warmest greetings and respects.

INFORMATION MINISTER RECEIVES ELF LEADER SALEH SABBE

JNO21406Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Information Minister 'Adnan Abu'Awdah received in his office today Osman Saleh Sabbe, Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] Executive Committee chairman, and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting Sabbe explained to the minister the current status of the Eritrean Liberation Front's struggle against Ethiopian imperialism and pointed out the various factors which interact and influence the march of the front's struggle. Stressing the 'nternational, Arab and local dimensions, he also explained the stage reached in the struggle of the Eritrean revolution since its great success against the Ethiopian troops and their allies.

The minister of information praised the struggle of the Eritrean Front and stressed to Sabbe that Jordan follows with great concern the conditions and activities of the revolution and sympathizes with it, wishing it success in achieving its aims of independence and national sovereignty over the whole Eritrean territory.

ELF LEADER CALLS FOR NO INTERVENTION IN HORN OF AFRICA

JNO22006Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Osman Saleh Sabbe, Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] Executive Committee chairman, has appealed to the world not to intervene in the armed struggle being waged by Eritrea and Somalia against Ethiopia and to help the peoples of the Horn of Africa carry out dialog under international supervision.

This came at a press conference Mr Sabbe held in the Hall of the Islamic Center in Amman this evening. The press conference was attended by the director of the Bureau of the Islamic World League in Amman, league members and information and press representatives. Mr Sabbe stressed that the continuation of intervention in the Horn of Africa will ignite a general war in the Middle East which will lead to a general world war.

FINANCE MINISTER AD-DABBAS DISCUSSES 1978 BUDGET

JNO12040Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Feb 78 JN

[Text] A royal decree has been issued approving the 1978 general budget law. The Council of Ministers adopted the draft of the budget during the session held at noon today under Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

Muhammad ad-Dabbas, minister of finance, has stated that the 1978 budget law figures show the overall activities and services carried out and provided by various government institutions during 1 complete year. He stated that the budget was governed by three basic factors: The first is the political situation in the region, which once again stresses the importance of giving the necessary attention to the support and development of the Jordanian Armed Forces; the second factor is the continuation of international inflation, which means that efforts must be continued to combat inflation in Jordan; the third factor is support for economic and production policies and the achievement of a balance between services and production.

The minister of finance further said that the overall increase in revenues reached 45 million Jordanian dinars, and the increase in estimated local revenues will be at a rate of 20.5 percent, which is encouraging.

Capital revenues have attained the level reached in 1977, which means that the government will be able to allocate the necessary funds to preserve the high rate of development expenditure, which contributed to stimulating the government's economic potential during the past year.

The overall normal capital and development expenditure for this year has reached approximately 85 million Jordanian dinars, as against 70 million Jordanian dinars last year, an increase of 15 million Jordanian dinars. It is worth mentioning that the estimated deficit in the new budget for this year will remain within the range of the deficit for 1977; that is, around 15 million Jordanian dinars, to be covered by local and foreign loans.

Mr ad-Dabbas added in his statement that within the framework of national security and consolidating the country's defensive means, the necessary sums have been allotted to provide our armed forces with sophisticated and advanced military equipment and to enable them to raise their standards, effectiveness and combat capability. In the development sphere, the government has taken necessary care to allot sufficient funds to continue the country's development march which aims at transforming Jordan into a productive society according to the framework formulated by the 5-year development plan. The finance minister added that, to improve and insure better services to the citizens, the government proceeded with great care to provide the necessary supply commodities and public services.

The finance minister will hold a press conference in his office at 1300 tomorrow, Thursday, to review the details of the various articles of the 1978 budget and to reply to questions of the press and the information media.

Gives Budget Details

JNO21942Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Muhammad ad-Dabbas, minister of finance, held a press conference this afternoon and discussed the details of the 1978 state budget, which totals 371.813 Jordanian dinars.

Mr ad-Dabbas stated that the budget's estimated revenues for this year amount to JD356.013 million, while estimated expenditures will reach JD371.813 million. Thus the budget will show a deficit of JD15 million to be covered by local and foreign loans.

Mr ad-Dabbas further said that current expenditures amount to JD361.183 million [as heard], with JD85.224 million for civil services; JD4 million for the relief of evacuees; JD9 million for emergency cases and for supporting food supply; JD8 million as interest on the public debt and foreign loans; JD82 million for the armed forces; and JD13.3 million for the public security forces.

The sum of nondevelopment capital expenditures totals JD85.289 million. Development expenditure totals JD85 million.

The finance minister said that local revenues have been estimated at approximately JD158.813 million and financial assistance at JD103 million, of which JD10 million is from Saudi Arabia; JD16 million from Kuwait; JD14 million from the United States; JD52 million as economic support from the Rabat summit conference; and JD11 million as other miscellaneous assistance.

At the end of the press conference, Mr ad-Dabbas conveyed the thanks and appreciation of the Jordanian Government to all the brother Arab and friendly countries which provided financial support.

LIBYA

JANA: U.S. TO ASK AS-SADAT TO FULFILL PROMISES TO ISRAEL

LD021512Y Tripoli JANA in English 1426 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Feb, JANA--President as-Sadat has been called to Washington by President Carter on Friday to be told to fulfill his secret promises to Begin and Israel, Arab affairs editor of the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY stated yesterday in a commentary.

He said: "As-Sadat's reluctance to fulfill them was due to the pressure being exerted upon him by his armed forces officers and resentment among the people.

"As-Sadat will undoubtedly be asked to fulfill his promises and make more concessions to Israel during his stay in Washington, but whatever hopes he has would never see the light of day and he will soon find out that his hopes clashed with America's firm stand and persistent support to Israel."

The JANA editor referred to the latest drama by As-Sadat when he stopped the Jerusalem talks and summoned a meeting of the Egyptian parliament, suggesting that he would take a firm stand by resigning if necessary. He stated this when mock rallies were already being staged not to let him resign.

"Is this an attempt on the part of As-Sadat to prove to the United States and Israel that he was still powerful and enjoyed the support of his people and that he was ready to announce his resignation before Americans abandoned him like many of their agents in the past?" The editor asked.

The editor continued: The United States must be knowing more about him (As-Sadat) than he knows himself. His continuous proposals to become the security agent of the U.S. in the Middle East and Africa would not have gone unnoticed by the Americans. The United States would not risk giving him arms for fear of tilting the balance of power which is presently in favor of Israel, especially after recent Israeli suspicions about As-Sadat's intentions and its reaction to As-Sadat's plan to start a new war.

Therefore As-Sadat would return from his U.S. visit emptyhanded exactly like his Jerusalem sojourn. He would only have received more orders to carry out. And no matter how far he goes to grant more concessions at the expense of rights of his people and those of the Arab nation, his efforts will remain in vain.

The editor stressed that whatever concessions As-Sadat had made or was likely to make in future would **only** increase Israeli intransigence and desire to humiliate As-Sadat and his people. "Had it not been for his capitulation and his shaking hands with the Israelis at Ben Gurion Airport, the Israeli radio would not have dared to call him stupid and ill-mannered," the editor concluded.

DPRK VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI 1 FEB

LD021434Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] Tripoli--Kim Chae-pong, DPRK vice minister for foreign affairs, arrived in Tripoli last night on a few days' visit to Libya.

Meets Foreign Secretariat Official

LD022146Y Tripoli JANA in English 1843 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Feb, JANA--The visiting deputy foreign minister of Democratic Korea today held a meeting with the under-secretary of the Foreign Secretariat, Issa al-Babaa. They discussed cooperation between the two countries in various fields as well as supporting bilateral relations.

AFRICAN, OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET IN LIBYA

LD022308Y Tripoli JANA in English 1840 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Feb, JANA--The Foreign Secretariat of the Jamahiriya has received confirmation from a majority of the African countries for participation in the African foreign ministers conference, due here on February 13, JANA learnt. The foreign ministers will meet for the African Liberation Coordination Committee meetings.

Confirmation for the 30th session of the OAU foreign ministers meetings, also to be held in Tripoli from February 20 to 28, have also been received from a majority of the OAU countries.

Dr 'Ali at-Turayki, the foreign secretary, had sent invitations for the conference to 49 African foreign ministers.

MOROCCO

EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT AS-SADAT ARRIVES IN MOROCCO 2 FEB

NCO21547 [Editorial report NC] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1515 GMT on 2 February carried a live relay from (Thala) Airport on Egyptian President as-Sadat's arrival in Morocco. According to the announcer, As-Sadat's plane landed at 1522 GMT.

King Hassan II and some members of the royal family greeted President as-Sadat and Mrs as-Sadat. As-Sadat and King Hassan then reviewed a guard of honor and shook hands with the people in the receiving line, after which they left for the royal rest house. The relay ended at 1532 GMT.

SUDAN

OAU SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI LEAVES KHARTOUM 2 FEB

LD021852Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Excerpt] William Eteki, secretary general of the OAU, left Khartoum at 0700 this morning at the end of a 2-day visit to Sudan. He met with President Ja'far Muhammad Numeiri and discussed with him the preparations for the forthcoming African summit conference in Khartoum, the situation in the Horn of Africa and the progress of the normalization of relations between Sudan and (?Ethiopia).

INTERIOR MINISTER IBRAHIM RETURNS FROM CHAD 30 JAN

LD011928Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Summary] 'Abd al-Wahhab Ibrahim, interior minister and head of the Public Security Organization, returned to Khartoum yesterday from Ndjamena after a 1-week visit during which he held talks with his Chadian counterpart.

NATIONWIDE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS BEGIN 2 FEB

LD021846Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Voting in the elections to the third national People's Assembly and the second regional People's Assembly began this morning nationwide. Voting will continue until 11 February and the results will be announced the following day.

TUNISIA

NOUIRA ADDRESSES PSD CENTRAL COMMITTEE SESSION

LD211529Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 24 Jan 78 pp 5-8 LD

[Speech by Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira at 21 January closing session of Destourian Socialist Party Central Committee]

[Excerpts] I would like briefly to draw conclusions from the debates which took place in this hall yesterday among Central Committee members about the country's general policy, and about assessing the situation in particular. In order to do this I would like to use the language of numbers in order to avoid any ambiguity.

As first official of the government, I am responsible for economic and social policy. I assume full responsibility for this policy at a time when certain of those who have supported it and participated in its implementation are trying to minimize their role in developing it. To insure that our talk is clear and frank, I believe that it is necessary to say a few words in reply to a speaker who wondered whether the established social policy has been detrimental to the national economy and whether it was concealing omissions and benefiting one partner at the expense of the others. These questions were asked in a tone and in a way which call for a negative answer. So I agree with him on this point.

I also thank him for acknowledging that in the 1970's wages have risen faster than prices. I hope that he is able to convince his comrades of this by his persuasive powers.

However, in my presentation of the state budget I highlighted the considerable impact of inflationary factors on the economy, citing wages policy and production costs among other things. This was only a theoretical outline on my part, a hypothesis and not an analysis of our policy. However, it is easy to see this for yourselves by referring to my speech in the National Assembly. In another connection mention has been made of the model of society which we have chosen and it seems to me, if I am not mistaken, that this choice is being supported. Indeed, no government in the past dreamed of establishing a wages and incomes policy as we have done.

In order to give substance to this interest, I set about making wages and incomes the essential foundations of our development policy. I undertook a formal commitment to do so at the eighth party congress in Monastir in 1971. This decision was subsequently crystallized at the second Monastir congress, and every detail of this program could be seen then since I gave a clear and lengthy account of it. At the same time, it was possible to see the essential results of this policy: the transformation of Tunisian society through a contractual economic and social policy. This policy was the first of its kind in the Third World. Its goal is to guarantee wage earners a decent income increasing in step with economic progress and to protect investors against social upheavals--something which would insure economic security and social peace.

This brief commentary on the economic and social measures leads us to seek the answer to another question which has not held the attention of the advocates of a uniform wage. This question is: Why reject the social pact when, after the long debate to which it was subjected, it is a code of conduct for all the contracting parties? What has happened in Tunisia only a short time after the signing of this pact to expose our country to risks once more?

We are endeavoring to find an answer to this question. We ask ourselves whether it is a matter of a simply social disagreement or a political divergence of views.

You have heard figures. Certain conclusions have been drawn from them. They show that wages have risen more slowly than national income in the last few years. Indeed, if we consider the GNP, once direct and indirect taxes and capital depreciation costs have been deducted, the added value is composed of only two elements: wages and profits. Wages increased by 94 percent between 1970 and 1975, while profits increased by 165 percent over the same period. That is why the increase in wages must be analyzed as much as the increase in income.

It is in the light of the figures that we have talked and we continue to talk. The social contract emerged from a dialog on the basis of these figures and gained unanimous approval. All the social partners agreed about the lessons to be drawn from them. The rule of dialog is that you speak the same language. And as a matter of fact, we have already succeeded in talking the same language, whether it is a matter of evaluation or of Tunisian reality: our national resources, our potential and the need to avert anything which may hamper our progress. Granting an advantage to a social category is to be avoided if it compromises the national interest and if in the long term it is against the very interests of the category which is supposed to benefit from it. The government and the party are endeavoring to enforce this rule of dialog with all social partners without exception. They are not nurturing any secret scheme with regard to the trade union center. How could we when we participated in its creation, watched over its development, and contributed with every means at our disposal to consolidating it?

The working class is an economic force which cannot be neglected. As far as we are concerned, they count and they have a place, and we know that they are healthy.

However, it is our duty to stress that intruders have infiltrated the trade union center and are in its leadership today. They certainly do not occupy all the seats, but they hold the control levers.

Of course, the secretary general of the Tunisian General Federation of Labor [UGTT] emphasizes that the center is open to all Tunisians, whatever their economic, social, doctrinal, philosophical or religious concepts. But whether you like it or not, there are men who have reached the summit of the trade union hierarchy who are in fact intruders who have no business there. In order to convince yourselves of this you only have to look through the publications of certain groupings and see how they incite their followers to infiltrate the two trade union and student organizations. This has not only been said but written in black and white.

Insofar as we must see that the living standards of those who produce are raised, whether their work is physical or intellectual, we must also be vigilant toward those who want to exploit them for dark purposes.

We are not moved by any feeling of hostility toward the UGTT, for that would be a rejection of our past and a betrayal of our commitments. Equally, it is in no way part of our plans to help one social category at the expense of another.

It is difficult in a very few years to succeed in developing a country and insuring the most equitable distribution of income possible. Those who were committed to an erroneous policy for many years are in a position to appreciate the results which we have achieved. Every Tunisian has felt their effects. In this hall there are militants who are in contact with the trade union officials who have the power to make decisions and determine orientations. I ask them to use these contacts to show them the way and to reveal the truth in its proper light so that irreparable acts can be avoided.

Since the party has the responsibility of power, you have been able to study, at your leisure and carefully, everything to do with the country's general affairs. You have adopted the positions which seemed useful on the problems of the hour. But it is primarily the development plan which has held your attention in view of the essential role played by the party in defining its political and social principles, conveying the proposed options to the people, and organizing the valuable debate which followed on a national scale before they were adopted and implemented. The party also deserves credit for having made the most considerable contribution to mobilizing energies, multiplying efforts and inaugurating a favorable social climate of social peace, stability and unity. It has worked to insure the best conditions of implementation and the greatest chances of success for the plan. In addition, it is no accident that the party today is devoting all its efforts to the human problems caused by the evolution of society and the promotion of the economy. That has been made possible only because Tunisia has succeeded, under the party's leadership, in establishing the country's political independence and decisively mastering the problems experienced today by so many Third World countries which are faced with the difficulties of liberating their territories, recovering their sovereignty and building a state. Today our country is preparing to win the last battle, the battle for economic independence, development and the deliverance of Tunisian society and the Tunisian citizen from the specter of hunger, poverty and ignorance. It is on these terms that Tunisian society will strengthen its identity and insure its dignity.

The Destourian Socialist Party [PSD] will spare no effort in its leadership of the new battle of development and progress. The PSD has already gained victory in the battle for liberation, despite the magnitude of the sacrifices which it made, the obstacles which it encountered, and the slander and denigration which it faced.

The party has never shirked its national and historic responsibilities. It has never evaded them. Indeed, what is more sacred than the battle which it is fighting today and what objectives are nobler than those which we are pursuing? It is the "great Jihad"; it is the battle for right and justice. The party has assumed responsibility for it and the people have responded to its appeal by pledging to follow its options and strategy.

Some people would have liked this party to be worn down and to become hidebound.... But events have proved their partisan forecasts wrong.

In fact we have witnessed a real explosion of vitality in the country--an explosion unparalleled throughout the centuries--thanks to the party's actions.

How can people talk of the decrepitude of this party when under its aegis Tunisia has made colossal strides toward progress and renaissance in only 20 years? Never in its history has the country achieved such a feat. It has not been possible for other countries which are under the same conditions as Tunisia and which have equally limited opportunities to achieve this miracle with as few constraints as were applied by Tunisia.

These statements in no way induce us to award ourselves good marks. This party has never been marked by vanity. If we are stressing this success, it is for the attention of those who have eyes but, refuse to see. So it is to the party that the country owes this renewal, and the PSD is fully aware of the thorny problems, constraints and tensions--all caused by the rise in intellectual standards and the new ambitions which are its corollary--entailed by the profound change which has taken place in Tunisia. The party is also the dynamic element in the country's life and the melting pot in which all citizens' hopes and ambitions mix together, and its mission is certainly to channel and express them in the form of options which are to be implemented according to a clearly determined strategy.

In our opinion, the party's role does not consist merely of assuming the responsibilities of power but also of offering the national political orientations and options as well as a practical line of conduct capable of enabling it to achieve its aspirations and objectives. The fifth plan, which was the object of in-depth study by the Central Committee in two successive sessions, expresses the party's concrete desire to follow the path which has been chosen by the Tunisian people and which accords with the economic and social aspirations which have emerged from our society's evolution and with the new values and objectives inspired by the renaissance which the country is experiencing. If we have based our fifth plan on two essential elements--an incomes policy and an employment policy--it is because we are deeply convinced that these two elements are the only ones which will lead to the desired objectives.

Contrary to what some people think, in this modern age the peoples are no longer content in their aspirations toward progress with seductive slogans and abstract ideologies but demand the establishment of operational plans and action programs which can be translated into facts. In order to meet these demands we have based our plan on the two fundamental directions which I have just indicated. Progress, social justice and democracy are inconceivable unless jobs are offered to those who want them and unless there is a rational and equitable incomes policy. An employment policy is the basis of any equality, any well-balanced society and any achievement by man of his full dignity.

It ought to go without saying that the pursuit of these objectives necessitates much patience, sacrifices, discipline and perseverance in efforts. Economic priorities and demands should also be taken into account, whatever the constraints.

Through fidelity to its policy, the spirit of its action and the nature of its principles, the party ought to make this submission to discipline a voluntary act, freely accepted without any coercion or duress.

That is why the party has proposed the implementation of a contractual policy which commits the social partners to assuming responsibility for the work of development on the basis of a freely adopted decision and deep conviction. Agreements have been concluded in this direction, detailing the rights and duties for each contracting party. It is within this framework that the task of development ought to continue, under the sign of unity, solidarity and clarity.

We have had undeniable success in the implementation of this policy thanks to the conclusion of collective agreements and of the social pact, which is less than 1 year old. At that time many trade union and economic figures declared that Tunisia is one of the few Third World countries to have succeeded in implementing a contractual policy in the social sphere.

Satisfactory results with which everyone is familiar have been achieved in this sphere, particularly in distributing the newly created wealth as equitably as possible and in constantly raising the living standards of all social categories and particularly of the underprivileged and the working classes.

This favorable situation did not fail to create new problems and to cause new difficulties which could be regarded as normal and which could easily have been solved. Unfortunately, this situation evoked maneuvers and rivalry on the part of certain partisans of ideologies which reject the contractual policy and the concept of national unity. On the contrary, they see these as a major obstacle to the success of their doctrine and the establishment of a violent regime and a class dictatorship.

Obviously, we are reluctant to resort, as our adversary does, to the methods of violence, material and moral terrorism and of attacking freedom, the homeland's dignity, the nation's gains and our institutions' rights. It is our party which deserves the credit for gaining the exercise of freedom for the people. Those who abuse it today had nothing to do with this gain. They have exploited the spirit of tolerance displayed by our party and our regime and, by exercising the freedoms acquired through lofty struggle for the benefit of the citizens, they have infiltrated certain key posts and secured the support of all those who have an aversion to effort and the spirit of sacrifice or who are filled with bitterness and rancor. They are manipulating this category of people in order to insure the success of their maneuver and achieve their objectives.

We must acknowledge that they have partially succeeded in carrying out their plan. They have indeed been able to exert strong pressure on an organization which was a promoter of the social pact and which is among the principal partners which signed it. It approved it, signed it, praised it and, through statements by its officials, expressed full satisfaction with it. This same organization is today going back on what it accepted just a few months ago and is denying what it publicly admitted. It is even going so far as to deny the existence of this pact and claims never to have signed it.

It must be recognized that the supporters of this trend do not need to be numerous or in the majority in order to take over the leadership of the trade union center and secretly orient it toward the objectives which they have set themselves. It is the least of their concerns to convince the whole or even the majority of the worker base, for violent ideological movements do not base their success on the awareness of the masses. They rely much less on persuasion than on force and terrorism which they cause to reign morally and materially among the citizens. The prime movers behind these movements appeal to discontented elements and arouse anarchistic instincts in order to compromise economic life and destroy the foundations of society. This method is directly inspired by the inevitability which they attribute to the class struggle and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

It is a well-known, classical method. However, it is old and outmoded. It is even a sign of underdevelopment that it finds some response in our country.

Is it necessary to recall that modern Marxism today rejects these concepts and this method? Political action developed on the basis of this approach is doomed to failure. Experience has demonstrated its danger and confirmed its bankruptcy. Unfortunately for us, our Marxists belong to the category of the underdeveloped representatives of Marxism. They continue to base their political analyses and their method of action on resorting to hatred and the exploitation of certain contradictions which no human society escapes. Aren't they a bundle of contradictions themselves? Aren't they flagrantly opposed to the most elementary rules of logic in economic matters? Indeed, in the social, economic and political spheres they adopt positions of which the least that can be said is that they clash with the nature of things and that they are fundamentally contradictory.

They are against both national savings and the appeal to foreign investors. At the same time they offer no alternative solution and do not regard themselves as being obliged to do so.

Furthermore, they are always quick to demand wage increases. They also advocate freedom of opinion but limit the exercise of it as far as others are concerned. They demand freedom of thought but, from their viewpoint, the most dazzling manifestation of this freedom is not to admit that you think differently from them, on pain of becoming the target of the worst abuse. Everyone knows that if these "zealots" for freedom came to power they would immediately suppress freedom and insure that violence, coercion and tyranny reign. The peoples who have been unfortunate enough to suffer the regime which is promised us know in what excesses, tyranny and acts of violence the implementation of these ideologies has resulted. Experience has shown that the supporters of these ideologies say the opposite of what they think and do the opposite of what they say.

Moreover, the duplicity of these adversaries is self-evident when it is known that while they pose as reformers and men who are devoted to social justice and freedom, they poison the atmosphere in the country and continue to do so. By their actions they confuse people, cause anxiety about the future, and arouse doubts about the safety of people and property.

The increase in strikes which they initiate supplies the opportunity for the outbreak of violence and for attacks on public order and respect for the law. Any pretext will suffice for causing anarchy to reign. They have no qualms about abandoning their commitments and denouncing agreements which have only just been concluded. Provocation is the primary instrument of their action. In this way they hope to prove that our regime is an oligarchic regime based on violence. Their objective is to sow confusion in society, to undermine the foundations of our economy, to tarnish the image of our liberal and egalitarian regime, and in this way to hamper our task of development, the ultimate goal of their undertaking being to cause the collapse of the regime and the dislocation of society. On the ruins of what remains they will establish what they call the "dictatorship of the proletariat." That is the essence of the dispute dividing us and certain UGTT leaders.

And so we are faced today with attempts at opposition to the development of the model of society which we have chosen for ourselves and whose outlines we have clearly defined by means of dialog and consultations with all the sides concerned, and opposition to every stage of the implementation of our strategy.

These attempts at opposition were first manifested in a veiled form, but then their authors abandoned their masks. Certain of our detractors have confined themselves to negative criticism without ever taking the trouble to propose a constructive solution to correct what they claim is wrong. Others base their criticisms on readymade theories and slogans of which the least that can be said is that they take no account of the facts of Tunisian reality and the sufferings endured by the Tunisians under constraints which belong to a past too recent to be forgotten. These criticisms reveal feelings of nostalgia for a model of "collectivization" which is at present greatly challenged throughout the world because of its antidemocratic character, its scant concern with individual freedom and its inability to promote the desired prosperity.

These feelings of nostalgia are revealed in certain writings by their authors' insistence on denouncing social disparities, fueling the spirit of confrontation and casting doubt on the validity of the objectives which the country has set for itself and on the purity of officials' intentions. Nothing provides better proof of these detractors' devotion to outmoded ideologies than their demand, for instance, that certain industries such as heavy industry be given priority over others. This demand relates to a model of industrial development which was advocated at the beginning of this century in certain countries and which was inspired by a very precise ideological analysis oriented toward particular strategic goals, being based on a geographical and human reality and material facts which have nothing in common with our local reality and the modesty of our means.

Besides these errors of judgment regarding the consequences of the implementation of this model of society, these people want to make public opinion and the working class believe that the model which they propose would have the powers of a magic wand to solve the employment problems and to insure the necessary markets for our products.

Must we remind you that the model of society which we have been striving to consolidate for 6 years does not stem from an authoritarian decision and is not the product of a mold manufactured from theories which are intellectually attractive but unrealistic? It was after carefully examining Tunisian reality, studying our society and probing into its true nature as well as its aspirations, taking into account our country's geographical position, taking constant care not to ignore the natural restrictions of a material nature placed upon us and the modesty of our resources, and without forgetting the true features of our people, both positive and negative, that with the agreement of our social partners we began the process of choosing the path to be followed, the best possible path to insure our society's evolution and promote its progress. At no time did we impose our views. We showed that we had no preconceptions. No objective and no plan of action to achieve these objectives were adopted without previously consulting all the parties concerned.

The party congress approved our program with regard to the progress contract. Afterward, we seized every opportunity at the national level to assess the results obtained in carrying out our program and consult our social partners. We continued these consultations during preparation of the fifth plan, at the end of each year when the National Assembly discussed the budget and during the negotiations which preceded the conclusion of the social pact. Owing to the meetings which we held to find solutions to the problems facing us, these consultations became almost a weekly occurrence. This was also the case when the Politburo dealt with the main topical problems.

This being so, is it possible to deny the democratic nature of our policy and its implementation, or to dispute the constant dialog which marked each stage of it? Is it responsible for those who have participated more than anyone else in defining the options and even implementing them to deny the existence of an open dialog? Is it a show of moral courage on their part to dodge their responsibilities at the first opportunity, in the face of the difficulties which no development program can avoid?

If we have always favored dialog and cooperation, and if we continue to do so for the sake of fulfilling our task of development and social progress, it is because we have chosen this model of society. What is more, we are deeply convinced that it is the only possible model for this country. It corresponds to the Tunisians' character, to their ethics and to their age and social distribution. It also reflects our abilities and our geographical position. All these things urge us to reject all authoritarianism in this matter and make it our duty to listen to other people's opinions, to take into account all the interests involved and all reasonable aspirations and to prevent one social category from tyrannizing another.

It is the only course available to us which can give us the strength to overcome the difficulties and settle the disputes which may arise.

If the word liberalism must have a meaning, it can only correspond to the concept which we have just developed. But it is absurd for our detractors to claim to embody it personally.

Moreover, have we ever rejected consultation with regard to any problem, no matter how thorny or complex? Have we ever shown reservations toward any demand or proposal except when they clashed with positions of principle, proved unrealistic or represented an injustice toward a particular social category and would therefore be harmful to the community?

We are always open to consultation except when, according to certain theories, the consultation must necessarily result in adopting the interlocutor's passionate positions, satisfying his demands and renouncing the dictates of general interest. We have no reason to accept this unusual interpretation of consultation unless we drop our adherence to the principle of solidarity among individuals of the same society, a principle which we have always defended, whose foundations we have sought to strengthen and which we have always considered the basis of national unity.

Some people have just now discovered the need to protect this national unity, after having treated it with sarcasm and doubted its usefulness, on the pretext that the concept clashes with the doctrines and theories which they have been taught:

As for the national unity in which we believe, which helped to support us in our liberation struggle and whose foundations we have continued to strengthen in our march toward development, it is based on solidarity among all social classes, on their equality of rights and duties, on consideration by all citizens for individual interests and the interests of the community and on the sense of sharing a common destiny. This represents an area of agreement for all interests and all social classes, not an enclosed field where these same interests and social strata clash. If we have chosen this model of society--which corresponds to our reality, is based on consultation and dialog, takes into account all social classes, strives to promote prosperity and to distribute its fruits with the maximum amount of justice, and rejects all forms of internal or foreign domination--it is because we believe that it is the only possible way to protect the

country from the dangers of plots and to secure it from the perils entailed by the activities of those who, unhindered by scruples, would not hesitate to plunge it into anarchy or to call in foreigners to help them. . . . Our party did not snatch the country from the jaws of colonialism to turn it into fodder for ideological, political and economic dependency. It did not restore Tunisia's sovereignty only to hand it over to some foreign hegemony, nor did it build our society on authentically Tunisian foundations only to sell it off cheaply for the sake of personal ambitions.

Politics is not a collection of empty slogans. Likewise, a politician is not a man who devotes all his energies and talents to threats and denigration but, on the contrary, a man who devises rational plans and coherent programs to achieve clearly defined economic and social objectives. In our view, politics consists of giving material shape to the model of society chosen by the nation. Hence, it is our party's ambition to create a free, mature society characterized by tolerance, solidarity, competition for the benefit of the general interest, rotation of responsibilities and the exercise of power within the limits of legality, that is, constitutional provisions, avoiding all sensationalism and adventurism.

On this basis the party is open to all ideas and all suggestions. It is prepared to come to terms with all positive ideologies. It has always been and indeed remains the meeting place and point of interaction for creative energies and fruitful currents. Hence its ability to perpetually renew its orientations, its methods of action and its cadres, for it is very conscious that what is useful and valid today may become useless and anachronistic tomorrow as a result of progress--for progress is the rule and corollary of any human society. Thus the party rejects all immobility, ideological and otherwise. So it is not surprising that our political actions are based on dialog, on the constant search for cooperation and the creation of a framework propitious to a constructive and sincere dialog based on mutual respect and observance of the rules of this dialog and political ethics. Moreover, the minimum criteria in this ethic are integrity, sincerity and respect for the elementary rules in exercising freedom and democracy.

In our opinion this could only be possible if the constitution and the laws which derive from it are scrupulously observed. Indeed, there can be no viable policy, no order, no justice and no freedom without respect for the constitution. What is more, this self-evident truth imposes on anyone who cares about democracy and public freedoms the duty to stand up against anyone who breaks the law. This, in our view, is the significance, the only significance, of the state's authority. The latter is nothing more than observance and preservation of the laws. Hence, competition in political action and the quest for power can only be based on this rule and can only take place within the framework of these institutions.

The worst danger for a nation is that the law of the street may replace constitutional provisions. Likewise, the worst mistake that a leader can commit to the detriment of his country is to try to resolve government problems outside the structures and institutions intended for this purpose, whatever the alleged reasons.

It is just as serious to appeal for foreign support for ideological or other, less noble reasons. There is probably no need for me to recall how many attempts to overstep the constitution have resulted in the worst misfortunes for the peoples concerned, plunging them into the throes of one-upmanship and anarchy.

There can be no freedom without a constitution or without laws. In this respect we must model ourselves on the developed nations which, however strong their attachment to individual and public freedoms and however democratic, allow no one to exercise opposition rights in the street amid disorder and outside constitutional institutions.

For our part, however great a faith we have in the effectiveness of an open-door policy in the intellectual and political spheres, we will never tolerate foreign meddling in our internal affairs or foreigners posing as a party concerned for our sovereignty. Nor will we hesitate to denounce anyone who allies himself with foreign political forces in the hope of obtaining their help to fight the legally expressed will of the country and achieve his sinister designs. Moreover, it is difficult for us to turn a blind eye to the behavior of those who can find no better way to defend their viewpoint about government than to turn their gaze abroad, in search of foreign allies. Is it conceivable to appeal to non-Tunisians to convince them of a viewpoint which only concerns Tunisians and which is meaningless apart from the fact that its author hopes in this way to win Tunisian support for his theories? What can one say about people who want to hamper the actions of the legal government, paralyze the country, spread suspicion and undermine the trust and influence acquired by the country? History has pronounced its verdict against those who sought the support and protection of foreign forces. For our part, we find such behavior repugnant.

Do our people, so jealous of their sovereignty, reject it? This is certainly not a narrow form of nationalism but the approach adopted by all mature peoples who reject any interference in their affairs and fight against all who try to resort to it. I do not think that there is any reason at all why our country should be exempt from this rule.

In actual fact, the problems we are encountering along our path are natural in the lives of nations which, like ours, have embarked on the road to freedom and progress. The constitutional structures offer a natural framework in which to resolve these problems.

The feature which distinguishes our regime from those of other Third World countries and even some developed countries is that it is based not only on the exercise of freedom through elections--elections which have always taken place on the anticipated dates, without postponements or cancellations. It is also based on continuous dialog and consultation within the permanent structures, whether we are talking about constitutional and government institutions or those of the party and national organizations. Indeed, in our country, consultation, dialog and the exercise of democracy do not cease as soon as the election campaigns end. On the contrary, they are perpetual, as permanent as the other rules of existence.

This is therefore the first requirement: Constitutional institutions must function normally and perform their role in full and all the members of the community must be bound by their demands. The constitution is above everyone.

The second requirement is that the rules of democracy and equality must be observed in exercising freedoms within all national organizations. This is a fundamental principle which above all demands rejection of all foreign interference, direct or indirect, open or disguised, in these organizations' affairs and in their basic operations.

There is no room in our country and among our people for mercenary movements or imported ideologies.

By rejecting any organization of suspect tendencies and intrusive ideology we are demonstrating our rejection of any alienation of the Tunisian personality, of any attack on the nation's dignity and sovereignty, and of any repudiation of our political, moral, civic and spiritual values.

As far as democracy is concerned, I would like to remind you that the minimum requirement of democracy and political integrity is to be logical with oneself and with others. The very least I can say on this subject is that there is nothing logical in one of us brandishing the standard of democracy and subsequently shirking it. If we are anxious for freedom and democracy to reign within the party, we demand that this should also be so in the ranks of national organizations. Although the latter have been granted a great many powers, they are bound, in return, to assume these powers properly by entrusting them to officials elected in a legal, democratic manner. We leave them every latitude to decide the way in which this principle should be applied. The organization is called upon to introduce the necessary amendments into its internal regulations, so that elections are free and public vote-counting is entrusted to neutral persons such as magistrates.

I would like to go even further by suggesting the promulgation of a law on election procedure which would be binding on all national organizations which play a political or social role in the country.

Our party fought for freedom. It paid with the blood of its martyrs to achieve this objective, so that all Tunisians, in particular those who now want to stab the nation in the back, might enjoy dignity and well-being under a healthy, just regime. What is more, it is strange to hear those who pose as apostles of democracy denounce the alleged absence of freedom within the party. What is even stranger is that they are now attacking the single party, whereas they were its most ferocious supporters, even going so far as to show their willingness to fight pluralism by force of arms. But this situation no doubt belongs to the past, when the single-party system made it possible for them to satisfy their unbridled ambitions and occupy high posts.

But, suppose their appeals are sincere--and I would not want to doubt their sincerity. In fact, I hope that they are not concealing ulterior motives. Well, since when has a party been created as a result of a ministerial decision or a law?

Some people maintain today that an essential corollary of democracy is pluralism. In all frankness and sincerity I proclaim that our party does not share this opinion for two essential reasons: First, this theory implies divided ranks, dissipation of the people's efforts, misdirection of creative potential, and a threat to a national unity which is still so fragile; and second, we are convinced that pluralism is not the essential and still less the only criterion of democracy. And it is strange that certain people are attempting to swim against the tide of progress. It is strange that they are becoming aware of the benefits of pluralism at a time when the nations which are traditionally the most devoted to democracy have awakened to its faults. Indeed, in these countries pluralism has led to the division of society and the destruction of political life since blocs and ideological dissension have brought them to the brink of political sterility and economic bankruptcy. In this connection I would cite the French politician who said one day: It is not nothingness which ought to be feared, but "overabundance."

Furthermore, there is no lack of examples to show that nations, irrespective of their ideologies, are opting today for a modern orientation which guarantees to the various social partners the right to defend their legitimate interests. As far as we are concerned, we adopted this orientation well in advance of other countries, as many personages from near and far testify.

Thus, according to the modern conception, democracy demands much more than the mere appearances, such as pluralism. It requires above all the separation of powers: a free legislative power which assumes its full responsibilities; a strong executive capable of facing the responsibilities of development and stimulating the phenomenon of evolution; and a just and independent judiciary which recognizes only the primacy of the law.

This concept is actual fact in Tunisia. Moreover, democracy necessitates comprehensive development and the guaranteeing of economic rights. There can be no political democracy without economic democracy. And the development effort is an absolute priority as the means of saving man from the constraints of ignorance and poverty, when facing which it is difficult to choose.

Our country is now passing through a decisive period in its progress toward development. I will not try to hide from you the difficulties and dangers in our path at the very time when the stakes have increased. They are placed there by those who continue to feel rancor and animosity toward this nation after having treacherously struck at it in the past. Indeed, at the time of the independence struggle these people did not hesitate to become the accomplices of the occupier in the name of worker solidarity and proletarian internationalism. Experience does not seem to have taught them enough. Nor do the shameful acts which they committed in the recent past seem to have induced them to display any restraint. Today they are still arming themselves with extravagant promises and utilizing the working masses' aspirations toward progress and prosperity as a means to wreck the national economy and destroy the work of development.

It is really distressing for us to see some of our brothers fall into their nets, let themselves be deceived by them, abuse the trust placed in themselves by the nation and its president and back the wrong horse. Today the mask has fallen, showing the hidden intentions and revealing the subversive trends.

The party, which has had to confront similar trends before, is firmly resolved to intervene against the forces of evil and destruction and to protect the development of the Tunisian nation and Tunisian youth against the misdeeds of the instigators of discord and the adventurist aims of the extremists.

Our party possesses political, moral and cultural values, ideological wealth, valid experience, unshakable faith and sincere conviction which enable it to mobilize the masses, retain their confidence, satisfy the natural propensity of Tunisian young people for constant renewal, and consolidate its dynamism, its selflessness and self-sacrifice in the service of the general interest. Its structures which are characterized by flexibility, concern for organization and a spirit of dialog offer young people a favorable framework for the blossoming and assertion of their creative faculties. If they aspire to renewal, they will find this aspiration reflected in the party. And if they also want a better life, they ought to know that the party's aim is to build a better tomorrow.

Our party was created by young people and for young people. Young people are invited to enter it through its open doors in order to be militant, to assert themselves and to work.

UGTT MEETS, APPOINTS NEW GENERAL SECRETARY

LD021600Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] We have just received the following statement from the Tunisian General Labor Federation [UGTT]:

In accordance with chapters 8 and 9 of the basic UGTT regulations approved by the 14th congress held on 24-26 March 1977, the UGTT Executive Bureau met this morning.

After reviewing the events that have occurred since its last meeting held on Tuesday, 24 January, and after deliberations--imbued with an atmosphere of frankness, honesty and self-denial, to consider the welfare of the workers and to consider the supreme interest of the country and in view of the extreme gravity which has occurred as a result of the recent painful events and taking into consideration the insistence of the general secretary of the union and the extremist elements to take the initiative to hold a general strike according to the decision of the administrative body which met on Sunday, 22 January, despite the absence of the majority of the members of the executive bureau--the Executive Bureau has decided unanimously on the following:

1. To entrust At-Tijani 'Ubayid with the duties of general secretary of the union, according to chapter 10 of the basic regulations awaiting the convening of the UGTT extraordinary conference, with power to secure the assistance of trade union elements to carry out this task;
2. To suspend General Secretary Achour and the extremist elements who are prohibited from any trade union activities until the conference has decided about them;
3. To abrogate the decisions adopted despotically since the 12th conference held on 29 May 1970 against a very large number of trade union officials in all union organizations without referring their cases to the 13th and 14th conferences in order to be able to defend themselves according to paragraph 3 of chapter 14 of the basic regulations;
4. To restore all these officials to their trade union activities and to grant them their full rights to elect and to be nominated to official posts in all organizations of the union providing they renew their membership before the convening of the extraordinary conference;
5. To fix the date of the extraordinary conference for Saturday, 25 February 1978, according to chapter 5 of the basic regulations. In compliance with the request of the broad trade union foundation, unanimous in persisting in its definite demand to convene this extraordinary conference, the Executive Bureau invites the administrative body to meet this Saturday, 4 February 1978, at 1000.

[Signed] At-Tijani 'Ubayid, general secretary of the UGTT.

UGTT Cable to Bourguiba

LD021756Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The Tunisian General Labor Federation [UGTT] Executive Bureau has sent the following cable to President Bourguiba: The Executive Bureau of the UGTT, meeting this morning, 2 February 1978, expresses to the great fighter gratitude for his decisive stand which saved the country and the whole nation, the workers in particular, from division and sedition.

They express to his excellency the steadfastness of the workers in the face of all extreme and biased trends so that he can rest assured about the soundness, immunity and loyalty of the union, as it has been in good and bad times.

They also assure the president of the workers' readiness to continue the struggle within the framework of national unity for the realization of economic prosperity and social progress.

[Signed] At-Tijani Ubayid, secretary general of the UGTT

NEW REGIONAL UNION EXECUTIVE ELECTED 30 JAN

LD302157Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The Executive Bureau of the Regional General Workers Union in Al-Qasrin met this morning. After taking note of the painful events which occurred in the country and claimed the lives of a number of citizens, the bureau decided to renew the Executive Bureau which is now formed as follows: (Munji Sultani), secretary general; (Eaedi al-Qafsi), assistant secretary general; (Muhammad al-Mu'ammari al-Bannani), treasurer; (Al-Hasnawi as-Suwayri), assistant treasurer; (Juwayni Muhammad), in charge of trade unionist training; (Yunis bin Muhammad Ali), in charge of publicity and publications; (Hasan ad-Dalhumu), in charge of legislation; (Nur ad-Dan Yazidi), in charge of social affairs; and (Hasan bin al-Arabi), in charge of economic affairs.

The new bureau calls on the former secretary general to hand over all documents and property belonging to the union. The new bureau has been agreed on in accordance with the internal statute of the organization. The Executive Bureau asked (Munji Sultani), former assistant secretary general, to assume the position of secretary general of the new bureau.

FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER IMPLICATED IN RECENT UNREST

LD020933Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Under the headline "From Prophecy to Being Well Informed," the newspaper AL-AMAL writes today:

The views expounded by Muhammad al-Masmudi, the former Tunisian foreign minister, to the Parisian LE MATIN, which we reacted to 2 days ago, are full of dangerous meaning when we link them with what he said a few months ago to the Lebanese AN-NAHAR in its issue of 6 November 1977. He expressed fear that the situation in Tunisia could deteriorate in the same manner it did in Lebanon. Muhammad al-Masmudi, who at the time was overcome by inspiration and revelation, said: I speak with full knowledge about the facts of the matter for I know that some groups in Tunisia are in the process of arming themselves.

Such accuracy in analyzing the future and clairvoyance arouse in us ordinary people surprise and astonishment, for it has become clear that Muhammad al-Masmudi was no prophet but in fact was well acquainted with the secrets of what some were preparing for.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON CABINET SETTLEMENT POLICY

TA031219Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 3 Feb 78 TA

[From the midday newsreel]

[Text] The prime minister met a short while ago with the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Agency in the Jewish Agency buildings in Jerusalem. We will switch over to our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, who will sum up what was said in this closed meeting.
[begin recording]

[Schiffer] The meeting with the prime minister was indeed closed but he requested that his remarks on the issue of settlement in the territories be publicized. Mr Begin said that the Israeli Government has decided that no new settlements will be established between Rafah and al-'Jarish and that settlement in this region will only be strengthened and fleshed out. As for Judaea and Samaria, the prime minister emphasized that it has never been promised by any government representative that no further settlements will be set up in Judaea and Samaria. The foreign minister, during his visit to the United States last September, told President Carter that the government had decided that in the future the settlements in Judaea and Samaria would be established in military camps.

The prime minister outlined to the leaders of the Jewish people the moves preceding the cessation of talks with Egypt and the reasons for their resumption, things that have been published many times already. As for President as-Sadat's call on the heads of the U.S. Jewish community to meet with him, Mr Begin said that he is not worried: I believe that it will be impossible to separate Israel and the Diaspora Jews. World Jewry is united behind Israel more than ever. At the end of his speech, the chairman of the board of trustees of the Jewish Agency, Max Fischer, rose and promised the prime minister the unreserved support for Israel of U.S. Jewry. [end recording]

BEGIN DENIES ISRAEL PROMISED U.S. TO STOP SETTLEMENTS

TA031246Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister's office denied the report appearing in an afternoon newspaper [MA'ARIV] that Israel's representatives undertook, in the talks in Washington, to avoid establishing settlements. We learned from the prime minister's office that no such promise has ever been given, either by the prime minister or by the foreign minister or any other representative of the Israeli Government. The foreign minister only informed the U.S. President and secretary of state, with the prime minister's knowledge and approval, that in the coming period the settlements will be in the army camps.

MA'ARIV QUOTES JODY POWELL ON ISRAELI PROMISE

TA031253Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Feb 78 p 3 TA

[By 'Ido Dissentshick]

[Excerpt] The White House has examined records taken of the talks between President Carter and Prime Minister Menahem Begin and between the President and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. The examination confirmed the accuracy of the U.S. President's statement to the effect that there is an Israeli commitment to desist from establishing new civilian settlements in the territories.

The White House spokesman, Jody Powell, did everything he could yesterday to avoid making a statement opposed to Dayan's remarks to the Knesset on Wednesday.

"I can see no reason to be involved in the polemics on this issue," Powell said. However, "our examination of the records taken during the talks has confirmed the accuracy of the President's remarks at his press conference. He said this then and we are confirming his statement today."

The White House spokesman pointed out that the records were not taken by a stenographer but by William Quandt, a National Security Council expert on Middle East affairs, who put down the remarks in writing. Powell pointed out that the promises to Carter were made verbally and not in writing. At any rate, he refused to say if, in Carter's opinion, Israel had lost the President's credibility. "There is no advantage to be gained from sticking adjectives onto Israel's activity," he said.

BEGIN REITERATES NO RETURN TO 1967 BORDERS

TA021230Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1155 GMT 2 Feb 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin again declared today that Israel will not return to the 1967 borders and will oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state. The prime minister said this in an address to the management and the workers of the Soltam [metal products] plant. Our correspondent Haviva Roger is reporting from our broadcasting van stationed near the plant.

[Begin--live or recorded] [Words indistinct] by, how can we call them now? The poisoners of oranges? This is a new name. This is unprecedented in the history of mankind. It points to treatment--to be ready to poison children in Europe in order to cause harm to Israel. I cannot recall such barbarism. In the Middle Ages Jews were accused of poisoning the wells. That was a blood libel. Now it is not a libel. This is a revolting act: to inject poison into oranges in order to cause damage to Israel. This is beyond our thoughts. Such is the enemy that should be on the mountain and control the valley, rule over us, with the artillery pieces--not of Soltam's; there are others. This has not crossed our minds, either. If we did so we would have endangered the existence of the entire state. Hence, the difficulties, of course. However, no, gentlemen, we were not elected in order to impose danger on the people of Israel. We were elected in order to guarantee the safety and peace of the people of Israel, and we will carry out this duty to the end. We shall do this of course with the help of the entire people.

RADIO LUXEMBOURG INTERVIEWS BEGIN ON PEACE TALKS

TA030626Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin says there is an important divergence of opinion with Egypt over a Sinai agreement. Interviewed by the Paris-based Radio Luxembourg, Begin said that President as-Sadat had assured him that when a peace treaty was signed, the Egyptian Army would not pass the Jiddi and Mitla passes. But, during the military talks in Cairo, Begin said, the Egyptian war minister, Al-Jamasi, presented a map on which the military frontier was only 40 km from the international boundary.

On the subject of Franco-Israeli relations, Prime Minister Begin said he hoped for an improvement in relations between the two countries, but this, he said, depended on France alone. Begin also said he would visit France if he received an official invitation from the French president.

WEIZMAN, MILITARY DELEGATION RETURN TO ISRAEL

TA021517Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The delegation to the Military Committee, headed by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, returned to Israel this afternoon. At Ben-Gurion Airport the defense minister refused to say anything to the journalists, but on his way to Israel he reported to our correspondent that the talks would be resumed this month. At the Cairo airport Weizman and his Egyptian counterpart, Al-Jamasi, also refused to say anything to the correspondents, although the Egyptian minister of war asked Mr Weizman to ask after the health of Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

SHARON CALLS FOR 'PREVENTIVE ACTION' AGAINST TERROR

TA021811Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Feb 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpt] Minister of Agriculture Ari'el Sharon said that anyone who thinks that the terror organizations will be content with Israeli targets [in connection with the poisoning of oranges], to show that it would be better not to buy fruit from Israel, is making a mistake. Yesterday it was reported that persons unknown also harmed oranges from Spain and Minister Sharon says that these reports prove that the free countries must unite against the Arab terror, as Israel has often asked in the past. In Germany there was a drop in demand for oranges from Israel. Further details from our correspondent Moshe Nestelbaum:

[Nestelbaum--live] From checks made by the heads of the citrus fruit marketing board it emerges that about 200,000 crates of citrus fruit less than what had been planned were purchased in Europe today. A significant drop in the demand for citrus fruit from Israel was particularly noticeable in Germany. Less significant drops occurred in the Netherlands and France. Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon thinks that the temporary drop in demand for citrus fruit from Israel is not a matter for concern. However, Minister Sharon does think that continuing action should be taken against the Arab terror. [begin recording]

[Sharon] Actually, it is good that these days, just when Israel is really making every step with the aim of achieving peace and is prepared to make far-reaching concessions, it is good to remember the real face of Arab terror. I think that this will be a good reminder. Therefore, when there is talk of action, I mean action against Arab terror, it cannot remain within the dimensions of a retaliatory action. It is a constant war, day after day, month after month, year after year everywhere in the world. This is not a retaliatory action. This is a preventive action which should make possible Israel's normal life as well as normal life, with no threat of terror, throughout the free world. [end recording]

ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN SHILO MAY LAST YEARS

TA021317Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 2 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The archeological team in Shilo in Samaria will be headed by Dr Ze'ev Yevin. This was learned by our correspondent Razi Barqa'i. Dr Yevin said that extensive preparations are being carried out for the excavations in Shilo and remarked that they may last several years. Our correspondent added that the plan of the work in Shilo is already ready, and it seems that there will not be budgetary difficulties either. Our correspondent has learned from the Education Ministry that the officer of the archeology section in the Judaea and Samaria headquarters has endorsed the execution of archeological excavations in Shilo and that the Antiquities Department views this positively.

SHILO SETTLERS INTEND TO CONSTRUCT BUILDINGS

TA021842Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The settlers in the Shilo foothold say that they intend to construct permanent buildings and buildings for light chemical industry. The group's secretary, Shevah Stern, told our correspondent Jerry (Cheslow) that they have already invested 600,000 Israeli pounds in preparing the site, in laying a road and in laying a drainage system. There are at the moment eight families there with children and a yeshiva has been opened there with 30 boys.

According to the official announcements, Shilo is due to be a camp for archeological diggings. The only archeological remains discovered to date were found when bulldozers were doing foundation work and when the settlers were digging drainage channels.

OFFICIAL FAVORS SETTLEMENTS OVER TALKS

TA030644Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The coordinator of settlement activity in the Agriculture Ministry, Uri Bar-On, says that settlement in the territories is more important now than the negotiations with Egypt. Talking to our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, Bar-On said that settlement indeed encounters difficulties, both internally and externally, but it should be kept up. Our correspondent reports that the procedures used to guard the settlements recently set up in Judaea and Samaria are now being checked by the defense establishments. This comes in the wake of the assassination of the bus driver near Ramallah.

Sharon Assails Statement

TA031126Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon has reprimanded the coordinator of settlement in the territories, Reserve Brig Gen Uri Bar-On, for remarks broadcast on the radio this morning. Bar-On said that the settlements are more important than the negotiations. Minister Sharon told our correspondent Moshe Nestelbaum that his assistant said this without his knowledge and approval and that there is no comparison between the peace talks and the act of settlement. The minister added that the government sees it necessary to act in both spheres and it gives the proper weight to each.

SPOKESMAN SAYS MILITARY DID NOT AUTHORIZE SHILO DIG

TA030719Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 3 Feb 78 pp 1,2 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Excerpt] The spokesman of the commander of Judaea and Samaria, Maj Shm'on Mendes, said yesterday in reply to a question that the staff officer for archeology had not approved an archeological dig at Shilo.

The spokesman's remarks contradict a statement from the Ministry of Education and Culture yesterday to the effect that the authority to grant a license for an archeological dig in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip lies in the hands of the military government. As we know, the Ministry of Education and Culture statement said the staff officer for archeology in Judaea and Samaria has approved an archeological dig at Shilo. Further on it was said that the Ministry of Education and Culture took a positive view of the archeological dig at so important a historic site as Shilo.

LABOR PARTY PROTESTS CURRENT SETTLEMENT POLICY

TA021444Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 2 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The Labor Party is surprised by the continuation of the official actions and declarations regarding settlements in populated regions, especially in Judaea and Samaria, at the height of the negotiations with Egypt. The party's reaction team also protested against methods of settlement along the lines of work camps for carrying out archeological digs and stated that this phraseology cannot mislead anyone. It only presents Israel as trying to mislead the public.

EBAN URGES HALT TO SETTLEMENTS DURING TALKS

TA030834Y Jerusalem POST in English 3 Feb 78 p 3 TA

[By Hyam Corney, POST correspondent]

[Text] Abba Eban said here yesterday that it would be wrong to place emphasis on the Israeli settlements in Sinai.

Speaking at a press lunch to launch the British publication of his autobiography, the former foreign minister said that the issue in Sinai was security, not settlements. He urged Israel to "freeze the whole settlement issue" for a year so that the negotiating process could go forward without the creation of new facts.

Speaking on his birthday (he is 63), Eban said that Israel ought to announce a moratorium on the creation of new settlements. It is an accepted international norm that while negotiations are in progress one does not create new facts. It is obvious that during their visits to Washington, both Dayan and Begin gave President Carter undertakings about restraining new settlements, he noted. There is a danger of losing American support over this issue, he added.

Asked by the Jerusalem POST about the forthcoming visits to Washington by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Eban said that he could imagine the U.S. producing a formula which would be easier for Israel and the Egyptians to accept than anything that they could propose themselves.

Asked about Begin as prime minister, Eban said that the responsibility of office has had "a dynamic effect" on him, but a great deal now depends on his patience.

Eban confirmed that he had been invited by As-Sadat to visit Egypt, and that the Israel Government "views this with favour." He did not know, however, when he would be going.

HA'AREZ SCORES CABINET OVER SHILO SUBTERFUGE

TA030947Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 3 Feb 78 p 13 TA

[Editorial: "Dishonor in Shilo"]

[Text] The affair of the "archeological camp" in Shilo does not add to the honor of the Cabinet of Israel. The matter goes beyond the worrisome question of the issue of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria. There is an argument among the public, also felt within the coalition and opposition parties, over the need for the establishment of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria in general, and at a time when political negotiations are being held with Egypt in particular.

The Shilo affair goes beyond this debate and touches on the question of the Israeli Cabinet's behavior and its credibility in the eyes of Israel's inhabitants and in the eyes of the countries of the world. The settlement in Shilo was not authorized by the Cabinet of Israel. This settlement of members of Gush Emunim--their noise being in inverse proportion to the number of their settlers--has been disguised under the term "archeological diggings." The members of Gush Emunim are said to be in the excavation camp as helpers for the archeologists. That is how their presence in the camp is explained. It is known that the Shilo settlers themselves are complaining a lot about the fact that they are being disguised as "archeologists." They regard themselves as settlers in the full meaning of the word and want to be recognized as such.

In any case, the disguise is too transparent to convince any reasonable person. It is not customary to begin archeological excavations at the height of winter. There are accepted procedures for forming an archeological expedition, for defining its aims and for choosing the teams this will involve--and these procedures are conspicuous by their absence. The Antiquities Department of the Ministry of Education and Culture denies any connection with the matter and the Gush Emunim people have no knowledge qualifying them to help an archeological expedition, and finally, the licensing committee of the Archeological Council has not given permission for the Shilo digs.

This behavior is not befitting any self-respecting cabinet. These transparent excuses and the semiunderground activity were acceptable to us when we were a Hebrew settlement under a hostile mandate rule. But anyone who copies these methods onto the pages of behavior of the sovereign State of Israel does not understand the enormous difference between dependence and independence, between an underground tactic and the behavior of an honored state.

And there is yet another aspect of the Shilo affair: Israel is today standing at the height of a difficult political and propaganda struggle over matters vital to it in the sphere of security, policy and procurement. This struggle is not helped by the cabinet's behavior in the Shilo affair and other similar ones. The damage to our credibility and to our relations with our friends is both tangible and unnecessary. The political credit--which is not unlimited--we have in these decisive times must be used by us for more important objectives than that of an "archeological settlement" in Shilo.

LA'AM EXECUTIVE OPPOSES REMOVAL OF SETTLEMENTS

TA021105Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Feb 78 p 2 TA

[By A. Qinarati]

[Text] A strong resolution passed by the La'am executive yesterday with respect to the nonremoval of the settlements in the framework of a peace agreement is being interpreted as a warning to the prime minister and to the government that the La'am ministers in the government and its Knesset members might not vote in favor of removing the settlements, and they might even reconsider their partnership in the government.

At an executive meeting headed by Minister Yig'al Horowitz, in which Minister A. Shostak also participated, it was decided that La'am supports the government's position against removing Jewish settlements in the framework of a peace agreement with Egypt or with any other Arab country.

At the same time, the La'am executive warned that the La'am ministers and Knesset members would support this position in all forums.

The DAVAR correspondent has learned from La'am circles that the significance of this decision is that any attempt at additional concessions on the part of the Israeli Government will not receive the approval of La'am and its ministers and Knesset members. It has been learned that at yesterday's executive deliberations strong words were said about the government's position on concessions in Sinai in the negotiations with Egypt. Very strong criticisms were leveled by members of the Greater Israel Movement and members of the La'am executive.

SOURCES COMMENT ON CAIRO MILITARY TALKS

TA030830Y Jerusalem POST in English 3 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By POST military correspondent]

[Excerpt] Defence Ministry officials questioned last night on the outcome of the latest round of military talks in Cairo would say only that the "process will continue."

They refused to say whether there had been any progress in the negotiations or whether the gap between the sides had narrowed.

Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman said yesterday on the plane bringing him that the negotiating process would resume before the end of the month and that both sides would continue working towards "understanding."

He side-stepped a direct question, however, as to whether he was satisfied with the progress made to date. In Egypt as well, spokesmen refused to comment on the talks and evaded reporters' questions.

Observers in Israel last night said that nothing new had been achieved at the Cairo talks this week. Reports that Egypt had moved toward Israel's position on the Rafah settlements issue were "optimistic," they said.

"The important thing," a source who attended the discussions said, "is that we continued to talk; and with each word exchanged between the sides understanding of the mutual problems and issues becomes clearer. With greater clarity comes deeper understanding."

MAPAM, LABOR DELEGATIONS TO VISIT ROMANIA

TA022019Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 2 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Delegations from the Labor Party and MAPAM will depart separately for Romania, at the invitation of President Nicolae Ceausescu. This is reported by our correspondent on party affairs. The MAPAM delegation will leave next month, headed by the political secretary, Victor Shem-Tov and the secretary general, Me'ir Talmi. The Labor Party delegation, headed by Shim'on Peres, will apparently leave for Romania in another 2 months.

BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES TEHERAN FOR KUWAIT

LD011015Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0400 GMT 01 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Henri Simonet, the Belgian foreign minister who came to our country for a 3-day official visit, left Teheran for Kuwait last night. Before leaving Teheran, he held a press conference and told correspondents about his visit to Iran. He said talks were held with the Shah concerning the north-south conference which is the basic issue of the international division of labor. Simonet said that the industrialized countries ought to be able to maintain their production and expansion capacity, talks should be resumed within the UN framework, and the parties ought to show greater leniency.

Mr Simonet said that regarding the recent efforts of Anwar as-Sadat to achieve political and military peace, he has exchanged views with Egypt, Israel and Iranian officials. concerning the Horn of Africa, the Belgian foreign minister said: In my view Iran has its own opinion about the Horn of Africa and is able to play an important role in attaining peace and tranquility there.

On the Common Market, Simonet said he has also talked with the Shah about Iran's wishes for the creation of preferential relations. Belgium will support Iran for the creation of such relations.

SATELLITE INAUGURATED WITH MESSAGE TO GISCARD, SCHEEL

LD011816Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Text] With a message from the Shahanshah Aryamehr communicated directly to His Excellency Valery Giscard d'Estaing, president of France, and His Excellency Walter Scheel, president of the FRG, the Symphonic satellite began its work tonight.

In his message addressed to Their Excellencies Giscard d'Estaing and Walter Scheel, the Shanshah Aryamehr graciously said: Communication by satellite today is a new confirmation of a historic fact, that is, the age-old ties of friendship and cooperation among our three nations, a new chapter of which has been opened up by advanced, modern technology.

BRIEFS

INDONESIA PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION--An Indonesian parliamentary delegation led by Mr Adam Malik arrived in Teheran on the invitation of Senate President Imami. After laying a wreath of flowers on Reza Shah the Great mausoleum, the Indonesian delegation met with the Senate president this morning and discussed the two countries' parliamentary relations. [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD]

BANGLADESH

NATIONAL LEAGUE LEADER REJECTS ZIA'S POLITICAL FRONT

BK011449Y Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Jan 78 p 12 BK

["Parlor Politics" column]

[Text] Mr Ataur Rahman Khan [leader of Bangladesh Jatiya League] says he will take an initiative to unite the "votaries of parliamentary democracy" and for this will start discussions with various political parties.

In an interview with ENA [EASTERN NEWS AGENCY] special correspondent N.M. Harun on Sunday evening, Mr Khan ruled out the possibilities of his joining the proposed "political front" President Ziaur Rahman may launch. He said: "the question of forming a front with the present government and thereby sharing power does not arise at all. I am a politician and I believe in going to power through usual political process."

He seemed to be optimistic about the prospects of restoration of civilian government and said: "Those who are now wielding power are apparently taking an initiative in restoring civilian government".

Mr Khan said: "Once the government becomes civilian, the political context will change."

On political process, Mr Ataur Rahman Khan said: "Political process cannot be imposed by whosoever likes it. It grows out of politics and politics is based on organization. So, political process is an interplay of political organisations with their diverse ideologies, principles and programmes."

The septuagenarian leader advised: "If those who are now in power, want to join the political process, i.e. to restore the country to normal political system, they should join political parties, old or new."

MOSELM LEAGUE LEADER COMMENTS ON INDEPENDENCE, POLICY

BK271320Y Dacca SANGBAD in Bengali 22 Jan 78 p 1 BK

[Text] Khan A. Sabur, president of the Bangladesh Moslem League Party, said that the people of Bangladesh made a mistake in 1971. They were misled by various attractive slogans. We repeatedly warned them, but they did not pay attention. The nation made a similar mistake in 1954 and learned a bitter lesson.

Addressing the first national conference of the Bangladesh Youth Council at the Dacca District Sports Association auditorium on Saturday morning [21 January], the Moslem League president said that if the need arises, his party will launch a movement for the restoration of democracy but will not allow the party to be used as anyone's "rubber stamp". He said that the state of frustration now prevailing among the people, including the youth, is not a good sign and, unless it is removed, the consequences are bound to be bad. If steps are not taken to provide jobs to innumerable frustrated unemployed youth, it can lead to social disorder, he added.

The conference was presided over by Ibrahim Khalil, who convened the Youth Council. Its main speaker was Shah Azizur Rahman, secretary general of the Moslem League Party.

Khan Sabur said that the Moslem League will follow its own principles. We will, of course, praise the government for good performance, but also criticize it for mistakes. If the need arises, we will start movements for the restoration of the people's rights.

He said that the Awami-Baksal [Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League] acquired great wealth by deceiving the people and also brought disaster to the nation. He said that we were falsely accused of being foreign agents and were condemned. But didn't those persons who stayed in India in 1971 act as agents of India and the Soviet Union? He said that although Indian-Bangladeshi relations have improved since the fall of the Indira government, we must still remain wary of India. There is no justification for us to change Bangladesh policy toward India. He said that the Moslem League does not want Bangladesh to be anyone's stooge. The Moslem League leader appealed to the government to announce a definite date for holding elections.

INDIA

SHAH OF IRAN ARRIVES IN DELHI TO BEGIN VISIT

BK021307Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Feb 78 BK

[Text] A warm welcome was given to the shah and shahbanu of Iran on their arrival in New Delhi this afternoon on a 4-day state visit. Among the distinguished gathering who received the royal visitors were President Mr Sanjeeva Reddy and Mrs Reddy, the prime minister and his cabinet colleagues, the mayor of Delhi, the three service chiefs and members of the diplomatic corps.

Welcoming the shah, the president expressed the hope that the close bonds which have existed between India and Iran since the very dawn of civilization will be further strengthened by this visit. He said the personal rapport and understanding generated in the past would further intensify the tempo of mutually beneficial cooperation and strengthen the trend toward multilateral economic cooperation in the region.

The shah expressed his profound thanks for the hearty welcome and recalled the age-old bonds linking the two countries. He said he has come to this country as an old friend who has always believed that the interests of his country, the region and eventually Asia lie in the closer cooperation among the nations of this continent. What India and Iran could do together could be a good example on a bilateral basis as well as on a regional basis and in the better interests of all, he added.

The AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent says that a 21-gun salute was accorded as the royal couple alighted from their special blue and white aircraft "Shahbaaz." The shah inspected an interservices guard of honor. The route from the airport to Rashtrapati Bhavan, where the Iranian head of state is staying, was bedecked with the national flags of the two countries, colorful banners and welcome arches. Hundreds of people enthusiastically cheered as the motorcade of the royal couple passed by.

Antishah Demonstrations

BK021555Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Feb 78 BK

[Text] About 80 persons, including some students, were taken into custody in New Delhi today. About 25 of them were arrested near Connaught Place for trying to break the barricade after the motorcade of the shah of Iran had passed through. According to the police, others were arrested near Tolstoy Marg [road] for creating a public nuisance.

Shah Holds Talks With Desai

BK030916Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Feb 78 BK

[Text] High-level talks between India and Iran were held in New Delhi today. Before the start of the talks, the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, and the shah of Iran were closeted together for 15 minutes. They were later joined by their top aides.

Among the Indian ministers who attended the talks were Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Mr H.M. Patel, Mr George Fernandes, Mr S.S. Barnala, Mr Mohan Dharla, Mr H.N. Bahuguna and Mr Madhu Dandavate. The Iranian foreign minister and other top officials assisted the shah in the 1-hour long discussions.

Reddy, Shah Speeches

BK031056Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Feb 78 BK

[Text] India and Iran have expressed their hope that closer friendly relations between them would result in creating a better life for their peoples and contribute to the emergence of a better world.

Speaking at a banquet given in honor of the shah and the shahbanu of Iran in New Delhi, President Sanjeeva Reddy said the constructive relationship between the two countries, based on political understanding and enriched with economic cooperation, would make for real stability and lasting tranquility in the region.

The shah of Iran in his speech spoke of flourishing cooperation between the two countries in several fields such as economic, industries and development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

Stressing the need for expansion of bilateral ties, Mr Reddy said he has no doubt that the shah of Iran's present visit will impart further dynamism and vitality to the process of beneficial cooperation and mutual understanding. He said the possibilities of cooperation are virtually limitless. Realization of the many projects taken up jointly will generate a momentum in the industrial and technical fields and the benefits of both the countries.

The shah of Iran expressed the hope that fruitful cooperation between the two countries will increase in the future. He supported India's stand that the Indian Ocean should be a zone of peace. He endorsed the UN resolution on the issue.

Paying tributes to the rich cultural heritage of India, the Iranian head of state said this can be a source of inspiration for bringing about equilibrium in the world.

DESAI INVITES JAPAN'S PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT INDIA

OW020059Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0036 GMT 2 Feb 78 CW

[Text] Tokyo, Feb 2 KYODO--Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai, in a message delivered Wednesday, invited Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda to visit India.

The 10-member Indian lawmakers delegation, led by Indian Lower House Speaker Sadanand Hedge, delivered the message to Chief Cabinet Secretary Shintaro Abe, who received it on behalf of Fukuda.

Fukuda was unable to meet the Indians since he was attending a session of the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

Abe told the Indians that Fukuda regretted having failed to visit India on his tour of Southeast Asia last year and that Japan still hoped for Desai's visit to Japan. Ichiro Hatoyama, then Japanese foreign minister, visited India last year and invited Desai to visit Japan.

ECONOMIC DELEGATION BEGINS VIETNAM VISIT 1 FEB

For Vietnamese and Indian reportage on the visit of an economic delegation headed by Minister of State for External Affairs Samarendra Kundu to Vietnam, see the Vietnam section of the 2 February and subsequent issues of the Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

SOVIET MINISTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ARRIVES IN DELHI

BK021100Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 2 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The Soviet minister of higher education, Prof V.P. Yelyutin, arrived in New Delhi today on a 9-day visit. Speaking to newsmen at the airport, Professor Yelyutin said the main purpose of his visit is to discuss present and future cooperation in the field of higher education between the Soviet Union and India.

USSR, INDIAN SCIENTISTS SATISFIED WITH SATELLITE TESTS

BK301044Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 30 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The Soviet and the Indian scientists are satisfied with the tests conducted on the engineering models of the second Indian satellite. It is expected to be put into orbit later this year. It will help conduct remote sensing experiments for the survey of natural resources in the country.

The director of the Indian Space Research Organization gave this information in New Delhi today. He expressed the hope that the success of India's second satellite after Aryabhata [first Indian satellite] will be a major milestone in our space program.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL VENTURES DISCUSSED WITH CZECHS

OW030008Y Hong Kong AFP in English 2310 GMT 2 Feb 78 OW

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 2 (AFP)--India and Czechoslovakia today discussed scope for industrial collaboration between the two countries, especially in the production of trolley buses, electric pumps and heavy-duty motors.

A visiting Czechoslovak delegation led by Z. Pucek, minister for metallurgy and heavy engineering, and Indian Minister for Commerce Mohan Dharja also discussed scope for joint ventures in third countries in the fields of power generation and chemical industries and in setting up petroleum refineries.

Czechoslovakia had earlier agreed in principle to buy heavy engineering equipment from India manufactured at the project in this country aided by that country, but could not place orders for want of adequate rupee resources.

In 1977, Czechoslovakia had a deficit of over 250 million rupees (about 28,000,000 U.S. dollars) in its trade with India.

A protocol between the two countries on economic and industrial cooperation will be signed here next week.

INDIRA GANDHI SUMMONED BY SHAH COMMISSION FOR 25 FEB

BK020930Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Mrs Indira Gandhi is to get her final chance to explain her actions in the 11 cases before the Shah Commission for which she had been earlier summoned before it. The commission has written to her and her former cabinet colleague, Mr Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, and her personal aide, Mr Dhawan and others to be present on the 25th of this month to make any submission if they want to. These cases will then come up before the commission in the argument stage.

Mrs Gandhi and Mr Mukherjee had earlier refused to bind themselves under oath and testify. They will face trial before the chief metropolitan magistrate, New Delhi for two offenses under Section 178 and 179 of the Indian Penal Code on the 9th of this month.

FACTIONS OF MARXIST-LENINIST PARTY MERGE

BK301143Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The Provisional Central Committee [PCC] of the CPI-ML [Communist Party of India--Marxist-Leninist] and the Organizing Committee [OC] of the CPI-ML have decided to merge into a single entity to be known as the CPI-ML.

The general secretary of the PCC, Mr Satyanarayan Singh, and the organizer of the OC, Mr (S.R. Baiji), has said in a joint statement in Patna that a decision to this effect was taken at a recent joint meeting of the two factions. The aim of the merger is to defeat what they called "the antinational and the antipeople's policy of the Janata Party."

DEFENSE INDUSTRY TO REMAIN IN PUBLIC SECTOR

BK271646Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Defense industries will continue to be predominantly in the public sector. Opening a defense industries exhibition in New Delhi today, the defense minister said the industrial policy of the government is very clear and there is no question of the public sector in the defense or any other field being shrunk.

Mr Jagjivan Ram described as childish the criticism that the government wants to hand over the defense industry to the private sector and through them to the multinationals. In fact, the government has gone further and has set up new units in the public sector.

The defense minister said the armed forces need an effective backup from the defense industry.

Mr Jagjivan Ram reiterated that India is pursuing a policy of peace and universal brotherhood and is seeking friendship and good will with all nations. However, we cannot ignore the facts of our experiences of having been subjected to unprovoked aggressions, he added.

Stressing the need for constant preparedness, he said the country has to remain abreast of the latest scientific and technological developments.

NEPAL

PRC VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING ARRIVES IN KATMANDU

BK030845Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The Chinese vice premier, Mr Teng Hsiao-ping, arrived in Katmandu today from Burma [as heard] on a 3-day official visit to Nepal. He is the first Chinese leader to go abroad since the death of Chairman Mao Tse-tung in September 1976.

MONGOLIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT 10-13 FEB

BK011514Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 1 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The foreign minister of the People's Republic of Mongolia, Mangalyn Dugersuren, will pay an official visit to Nepal from February 10 to 13 at the invitation of the foreign minister, Mr Krishna Raj Aryal.

PAKISTAN

GOVERNMENT FILES FIVE MORE CASES AGAINST BHUTTO

BK021615Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The government today filed five cases against Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in a special court presided over by Mr Shafiur Rahman of the Lahore High Court. The charges include subversion of the legal process by rigging the elections, filing an incorrect declaration of assets under Martial Law Regulation No 21, misuse of public funds, abuse of official position and misappropriation of secret service funds [last three words rendered in English].

The Federal Investigation Agency has secured the necessary evidence to support the prosecution charges.

The investigation has revealed that large-scale rigging and malpractices before and during the March 1977 elections were part of a plan prepared by Mr Bhutto and his close associates to insure the Pakistan People's Party's [PPP] victory in the polls. Notwithstanding Mr Bhutto's declarations in the National Assembly and in other forums that it was not the policy of his government to rig the elections, records reveal that Mr Bhutto started working on this plan as early as 1974 when he brought the Election Commission under his strict control and restricted its authority and impartiality. He then prepared a fraudulent scheme to be implemented at the district level. He selected Larkana District as a model and marked the plan "eyes only." He circulated this plan in April 1976 to a few elected officials and told them that he had prepared a scheme for both the federal and provincial elections in Larkana District which might be of some use in preparing arrangements to be worked out on a scientific basis for the entire country.

This scheme visualized the use of the district administration to further the political ends of the PPP. Those responsible civil servants who were reluctant to toe the party line were harassed and threatened. Mr Bhutto set up the necessary machinery by giving concessions and threatening civil servants, and this insured the PPP victory in the polls. Even the provincial governors, who are mere constitutional heads, were used and were asked to help the PPP candidates in the election campaign. In addition to this, many senior officials were sent on visits to various parts of the country to campaign for the ruling party. A few selected close confidants were appointed polling officers to insure the success of this scheme and to achieve all the aims of the PPP.

Under the Larkana scheme, in addition to making all the arrangements to insure the PPP success, a separate scheme was drawn up which was designed to keep those opposition candidates outside the assemblies who, according to Mr Bhutto, would create obstacles to the democratic process in the country and create problems in the assemblies. The list of all such candidates was prepared much earlier and all necessary arrangements were made to defeat them at the polls.

As a result of these plans, the PPP managed to score a landslide victory by foul and unfair means.

The second case against Mr Bhutto relates to the filing of his declaration of assets. According to his declaration, the value of his property and assets [as heard] was only 1.75 million rupees, whereas according to (?first) estimates, his assets in Pakistan alone are valued at over 50 million rupees. This difference is due to the fact that Mr Bhutto not only illegally undervalued his assets, but did not declare most of his property which included land, houses and vehicles.

The third case alleges the illegal use of government funds to the tune of 9 million rupees for the development of his private land. According to evidence, Mr Bhutto and his family own 2,200 acres of agricultural land in Dera Bhutto. This land is well known as the Z.A. Bhutto Farm and the Nusrat Farm. To protect this land from the Agricultural Reform Act, Mr Bhutto transferred some areas through simple paperwork to some close confidants. The actual ownership of these areas remained with Mr Bhutto or his representatives. He also obtained the services of the Water and Power Development Authority, the agriculture and irrigation divisions and the Sind planning and development departments for the development of this land.

The fourth case against Mr Bhutto concerns the illegal expenditure of 6 million rupees from the public exchequer on improvement, alteration, air conditioning and maintenance of his houses in Larkana and Karachi. To cover up these heavy expenditures, he tried to pressure the officials concerned to declare his private houses--called (A-1 Murtaza) and 70 (Clifton)--official residences for use by the prime minister and president.

The fifth charge leveled against Mr Bhutto concerns misappropriation of secret service funds for the benefit of his own party--the PPP. As president and prime minister of the country, he spent more than 19.2 million rupees from this fund. Investigation of these heavy expenditures has established that he used these funds illegally to advance his party's ends. Mr Bhutto went so far as to produce forged certificates to show that these funds had been spent for the public welfare. The investigation has further established that he advanced hundreds of thousands of rupees out of this secret fund to officeholders of his party. This money was misused for payment of salaries of the party staff, for monthly rent for party offices, for the purchase of furniture, for preparing party flags and banners and for party members' Id festivities.

According to witnesses, Mr Bhutto also purchased a jeep with secret service funds which was later sent to his ancestral home in Larkana for personal use. One more incident of misuse of secret service funds came to light during the investigation. A Karachi firm was paid for the rental and repair of five jeeps from these funds. These jeeps were used by the PPP frontier province branch. It is also revealed that money was also obtained from this fund for party work such as the publication of the party constitution.

A sixth charge will be filed against the former prime minister in a couple of days alleging that he obtained through corrupt and dishonest means pecuniary advantages by importing luxury items for private use without paying 2.9 million rupees in customs duties and sales taxes. The Federal Investigation Agency's investigations have revealed that Mr Bhutto also imported luxury items for personal use worth 2 million rupees more than the value he was allowed to import as prime minister of the country. According to the law, he should have paid customs duties and taxes of 2.9 million rupees which he did not pay.

Mr Bhutto also violated the foreign exchange regulations. He illegally obtained foreign exchange and used this money to import commodities for which a release permit was not obtained. In many cases, permits received to purchase household goods were used to import arms and ammunition. He also misappropriated hundreds of thousands of pounds sterling belonging to Pakistan's overseas diplomatic missions.

The court has issued notices to the accused in three of these cases for the 21st of this month.

PPP TO BOYCOTT MEETING WITH HAQ SCHEDULED FOR 4 FEB

BK030820Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0900 GMT 3 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The Central Committee of the PPP has decided not to attend the meeting which has been called to brief political leaders on the situation in the country in Rawalpindi tomorrow.

The committee, which met under the leadership of the party's acting chairman, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, in Karachi yesterday, said that the decision was taken because the agenda does not include the question of elections. The party's secretary general, Dr Ghulam Hussain, told newsmen after the meeting that the Central Committee discussed the political and economic situation in the country and party organizational matters. The committee's meeting will continue today.

DEPUTY MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATORS' POWERS EXPANDED

BK011030Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 1 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The army chief and chief martial law administrator issued two martial law orders last night. Under Martial Law Order No 33, deputy martial law administrators holding the rank of major general are authorized to exercise powers given to the chief martial law administrator and zonal martial law administrators under Martial Law Order No 12.

Under Martial Law Order No 34, Maj Gen Ghulam Mohammad has been appointed martial law administrator of Zone B effective today, and Maj Gen Nishat Ahmed has been appointed martial law administrator of Zone E effective from the 25th of last month.

EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL STOPS IN KARACHI ON WAY TO PEKING

BK020956Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0900 GMT 2 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The deputy prime minister of Egypt, Mr Hasan at-Tuhami, has praised the army chief and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, for undertaking the big task of implementing Islamic laws in Pakistan. He offered the help and cooperation of Egyptian religious scholars in this regard. He said Pakistan is steadily becoming a progressive Islamic state. He was talking to newsmen in Karachi during a brief stopover in the city on his way to Peking.

He said Pakistan and its people occupy a special position in Egyptian hearts. Mr at-Tuhami said they considered Pakistan as one of them and the time will come when Pakistanis will be in the forefront of efforts to achieve the common goal.

The Egyptian deputy prime minister said he will soon visit Pakistan again to pay tribute on behalf of the Egyptian people to the Pakistani people for their support to the Arab world.

Concerning the situation in the Middle East, Mr at-Tuhami said Egypt is participating in the current negotiations with a view to liberating all Arab territory from the Israeli occupation, restoring Palestinian rights and establishing a lasting peace in the region. He said Egypt will not bargain on these issues and the Arab world should side with Egypt to achieve these objectives.

He said he is going to China to hold very important talks with the Chinese leaders on the current Middle East situation.

SRI LANKA

HAMEED MEETS WITH SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER

BK291425Y Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 29 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The Singapore prime minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, has expressed the hope that the Sri Lanka Government, with its new outward-looking economic policy, will be able to create the necessary confidence required by foreign investors. After meeting with the Sri Lanka minister of foreign affairs, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, the Singapore leader said that this will go a long way in helping to build a free market. Mr Lee said he felt sorry that Sri Lanka with all her resources had not been able to achieve the required economic growth. He wished our prime minister every success.

Mr Hameed briefed the Singapore premier on Sri Lanka's new economic policy and the prime minister's approach to some of the current social and economic problems facing the country.

Mr Hameed also called on the president and had meetings with the minister of foreign affairs of Singapore and the minister of finance, industry and trade. The discussions covered several topics including economic cooperation in Asia, particularly between Singapore and Sri Lanka. Mr Hameed also discussed the possibility of Singapore investment in Sri Lanka and the question of signing a bilateral agreement on investment guarantees was explored. The Sri Lanka minister will hold a press conference before his departure.

FOREIGN INVESTORS INTERESTED IN FREE TRADE ZONE

BK291500Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The government has already received many inquiries from entrepreneurs in West Germany, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea about investment in the free trade zone. They are now being handled by the Export Promotion Secretariat pending the establishment of the greater Colombo Economic Commission, which is expected to be done as soon as the bill passed by the parliament receives the speaker's approval.

Meanwhile, an official of the International Finance Corporation, a subsidiary of the World Bank, will visit Colombo this week to discuss several industrial projects to be started in the zone.

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